VALLEY VOICE

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# Tulare County Supervisors Vote to Ban Marijuana

**Catherine Doe**

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted 5 – 0 on June 3rd to ban all medical marijuana cultivation by cooperatives or individuals. Previously it was legal for cooperatives to grow 99 plants, and for individuals to grow up to 24 plants within an enclosed structure and out of public view.

The board was presented with two options to revise their existing ordinance. Option one banned all cultivation, possession or distribution of medical marijuana, whether by an individual or a collective or cooperative. The second option would have banned all marijuana collectives or cooperatives, but allow individual cultivation. The board voted for option one.

The ban needs to jump through several hoops before it becomes an official ordinance. A formal amendment to the current ordinance needs to be drafted by county staff and then reviewed by the Tulare County Planning Commission. A public hearing will be held when the planning commission goes through their review process. The commission may approve, modify or reject the drafted ordinance presented by the staff. The final outcome could be very different from the vote taken on June 3rd, but the board of supervisors has expressed a clear direction they want the county to take, which is a complete ban of the cultivation of medical marijuana.

**An illegal pot grow in Porterville.** Photo courtesy County of Tulare.

Douglass Hurt, attorney for Compassionate Cannabis Information Center (CCIC) out of Goshen, was dismayed that the board of supervisors voted in the opposite direction of the rest of the country on this issue. He explained that banning the cultivation of medical marijuana will push the production underground making it even more dangerous to the community. It will also subject people fighting cancer and many other debilitating illnesses to buying pot from hardened drug dealers who are also selling meth and heroin. A member of CCIC said that medical marijuana is not a gateway drug; it's the type of people associated with illegally growing and selling pot that makes it a gateway drug.

The board has been keen to ban the cultivation of pot since the California Supreme Court upheld Live Oaks' ordinance that completely bans the growing and distributing of medical marijuana. The Supreme Court ruling gave counties and cities the right to ban medical marijuana even though California legalized it in 1996.

After the board of supervisors voted, Sandra Lambert of Ivanhoe asked who was now in charge if she lived or died. Mike Spata, associate director of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, said that she would have another chance to address the issue with the Tulare County Planning Commission at the end of June. Her situation is life or death because the morphine that she used to take for her fibromyalgia and crushed vertebrae was destroying her liver. Her doctors said that her liver wouldn't last more than a year on morphine and recommended medical marijuana. She grows marijuana in an

**MARIJUANA** continued on **10 »**

## Porterville Mayor's Statements Spark National Media Attention

**Tony Maldonado**

Porterville has once again found itself in the spotlight: video of its mayor making a colorful, off-the-cuff remark at a city council meeting while discussing an anti-bullying proposal, has become fodder for news stations and the internet commentariat.

Porterville Mayor Cameron Hamilton

During discussion of a "safe zone" proposal at the the city's May 6 council meeting, Porterville's mayor, Cameron Hamilton, expressed his displeasure with the idea in no uncertain words.

"I'm against bullying, but I'm getting damn tired of it being used as a mantra for everything, and the ills of the world," Hamilton said at the meeting. "All most people just have to grow a pair, and stick up for them damn selves."

"It's hard to just grow a pair when you're a 10-year-old girl," responded Councilwoman Virginia Gurrola, who brought forth the proposal on the behalf of students involved in Burton Middle School's Step Up program.

"Then maybe the other 10-year-olds that think they want to stop bullying will stand up for her, instead of a safe zone and a placard and a bunch of training that goes on," Hamilton retorted.

**HAMILTON** continued on **5»**

## American Lung Association Report Ranks Area High in Air Pollutants

**Steve Pastis**

The American Lung Association has released its "State of the Air 2014" report, ranking the ozone and particulate pollution levels of U.S. metropolitan areas. As most Tulare and Kings County residents would probably guess, this area didn't fare well.

"The San Joaquin Valley remains home to some of the most polluted air in the United States, in terms of both ozone and particulate pollution," according to the report. "Emissions from the transportation sector are a leading source of pollution in the region, bringing significant lung health burdens."

According to the report, the Visalia-Porterville-Hanford area has the second highest ozone pollution in the nation, behind only the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside metropolitan area. Rounding out the top (bottom?) five were other Central California areas: #3 Bakersfield, #4 Fresno-Madera and #5 Sacramento-Roseville. Modesto-Merced was ranked #7.

The particulate pollution rankings were separated into two categories, short-term (the number of bad ozone pollution days) and annual, with the Visalia-Porterville-Hanford area once again being ranked second on both lists, behind only Fresno-Madera. Rounding out both lists of the five most particle-polluted areas were: Bakersfield, Los Angeles-Long

**POLLUTION** continued on **11 »**

Rudy Mendoza and family arrive to a victory celebration at the Visalia Convention Center.

## Primary Election: Same Old Same Old, Sprinkled Surprises

**Catherine Doe**

The June 3rd primary election ushered into office heavily favored candidates, but also produced a few surprises.

The biggest surprise of the night was the race for Tulare County District Attorney. In a duel that was difficult to call during its final days, Tim Ward pulled off a solid defeat of former Assistant DA Ralph Kaelble. Ward waited until the first election results were in before politely informing the Political Fix author that he disagreed with her prediction that he would win by a scant 500 votes. "I knew I'd prove you wrong," he said. Ward ended up winning by over 14%.

As a low turnout was expected, it was no surprise that--according to the Tulare County Registrar of Voters--of the 137,306 registered voters countywide, only 31,769 actually participated. The actual election day turnout was 7%.

Not surprisingly, the turnout for three related victory parties--held in different but adjoining rooms at the Visalia Convention Center--was spirited. Candidates Mike Boudreaux, Rudy Mendoza and Tim Ward each hosted a gathering. Boudreaux' was, by far, the most thronged of the three. Ward's crowd seemed quietly confident, while Mendoza's room was airy. In such a large field--even if such a large favorite--Mendoza, as everyone else did, had to have known he would be competing again in November. But once the early returns were in, Ward was free to mingle as the victor. Boudreaux would have been, too, if not for the receiving line he felt obliged to welcome.

Another of the evening's surprises was the second place winner of the 26th Assembly District race. A second place finish would guarantee that candidate a chance to run against favorite Rudy Mendoza in the November general election. Mendoza won a

**ELECTION** continued on **7»**

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**Días para la recoleccion agujas usada generadas por uso domestico.**

# AGUJAS

**Estos eventos son solo para residentes del Condado de Tulare:**

- **Junio 14 (Sábado) 10 am a 2 pm**
  Ayuntamiento de Tulare
  411 E. Kern - estacionamiento trasero
- **Junio 26 (Jueves) 2 pm a 6 pm**
  Estación de autobuses de Dinuba - 180 W. Merced
- **Julio 10 (Jueves) 2pm a 6pm**
  Estacionamiento 44 de Visalia - Calle Tipton y Oak Ave
- **July 19 (Sábado) 8 am a 12 pm**
  Almacén de la Ciudad de Porterville - (Corporation Yard)
  555 N. Prospect, Entre por la avenida Grand

El nuevo Programa para la Recolección de agujas usadas generadas por uso doméstico entra en efecto el 1 de Julio del 2014. El Departamento Consolidado para la Recolección de Residuos está patrocinando un evento gratuito de 4 horas para los residentes del Condado de Tulare. Las agujas usadas solamente se aceptaran en contenedores aprobados y certificados.

El programa proporciona a los residentes del Condado de Tulare la oportunidad de llevar las agujas usadas a la tienda o establecimiento donde se hayan comprado originalmente sin costo alguno.

**¿Que son las agujas generadas por uso doméstico?**
Agujas, jeringas y lancetas usadas por personas, miembros de familia, o mascotas.

**¿Por qué debo de utilizar el servicio de recolección?**
Es ilegal tirar las agujas usadas en los contenedores de basura regular, reciclable y para desechos de yarda, o tirarlas en el excusado.

**¿Qué necesito saber?**
- Los contenedores certificados pueden comprarse en su farmacia local.
- No se aceptaran agujas usadas en cualquier otro tipo de contenedor.
- No se aceptaran medicinas recetadas o drogas.
- Estos eventos son para recolectar solamente agujas usadas generadas por uso doméstico.
- Se requiere presentar un comprobante de residencia en el Condado de Tulare, como la licencia de conducir o un estado de cuenta actual de cualquier servicio doméstico con dirección en el Condado de Tulare.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

## How Carelessly the Tongues Lounge in Our Mouths

This issue completes a first full calendar year back from the purgatorial wasteland to which all failed newspapers are relegated. Such papers may be no more, but they linger in archives everywhere from public libraries to private homes. The *Valley Voice* remained in the collective memory, seemingly, just long enough to be eagerly anticipated upon its return. We found ourselves--a different newspaper entirely--being appreciatively welcomed "back." It has been a minor adventure putting 22 editions out over the past 12 months--especially back near the start, when I didn't always quite clearly know what I was doing while Steve and Tony tolerated me. Not since university have I been forced to write with such precision. A professor of mine once defined poetry as "language under compression." I suppose good journalism is, as well.

Because, almost so much as what one says, how it is said matters.

Consider the jargon of our criminal justice system. In many departments of correction there are penitentiaries. This is oxymoronic. There can be jails or prisons, slammers, stoney lonesomes, pokeys or hoosegows--even the occasional big house--but a penitentiary denotes penance, therefore punishment--and we must decide, as a society, whether these institutions should be correctional or punitive. Let's start by getting our language--terminology and analogy both--straight. A botched execution? If such a thing were truly made a hash of, the condemned simply would somehow refuse to perish. So "botched" in the recent Oklahoma case must be taken to mean not either swift or painless. The finality of it was never in question.

How carelessly the tongues lounge in our mouths!

I suppose because one has to physically attend, we refer to films, plays and sporting events as having been "gone to" or "seen." Yet if one were to see the exact same things at home, on television, the verb "to watch" would be applicable.

On a family trip to Scotland twenty years ago, various members of our clan were scheduled to converge at successive staging areas--airports--en route to an ancient house in the vicinity of Edinburgh. My wife and I, with three kids and all their accoutrements, flew from Cabo San Lucas to Los Angeles, where we met a step-brother. Having added him to our entourage, we flew from LAX to Heathrow and collected my wife's sister before continuing on a final, bonny flight northward. After a night at the airport hotel, we piled jet-lagged into a rented van for the last, driven leg of our journey. Navigation fell to me. The instructions--followed easily enough--culminated with the advice to look for a concealed entrance sign. We'd know we had arrived, apparently, because somebody had made a poor job of hiding it. Unless, conversely, it was hidden all too well. It wasn't. Shortly after turning down a small side-street, a plaque on a low garden wall proudly read, "Concealed Entrance." I still don't understand this.

Or the assembly of any Chinese import. The furnished instructions, ostensibly, are in English--just not a version anyone can understand. More often than not, these are in some unintelligible argot best disregarded. Many a Christmas Eve past, two o'clock in the morning has found me sitting on the floor, flummoxed, in a jumble of disjoined components, bitterly cursing the entire nation of China. A few years ago, when our elder daughter starred as the Cat in the Hat in a TCOE production of "Seussical the Musical," a group of us fathers was entrusted with set construction. We had no diagrams to guide us, or pictures--and as you might imagine, the set of such a production sported no right angles. With a modicum of common sense, some frantic tenacity and a boatload of trial and error, we eventually prevailed. The point is: Sometimes, no instructions at all are better than the ones provided.

Language, when not precise, can be useless or dangerous. It can also be hilarious.

So it was, well--arresting--to read last month of Supervisor Phil Cox' youthful adventures at what he called the "Y." May is Prevent Teen Pregnancy Month, and in that regard he regaled us with the example of swimming in a dangerous canal as analogous to risky teen sexual behavior. I am going to give Supervisor Cox a pass here because, even if his pen might not have been, it seems that his heart, at least, was in the right place. Still, the Y has long been slang for a woman's crotch. I have written--and snatched back--several tasteless jokes here. Let's just say that any mention of the Y, of canals at all, even, and of swimming there in dangerous waters were--mated with idea of preventing teen pregnancy--probably not the wisest choice of words.

Then, of course, on the opposite end of the spectrum, there is the whole concept of legalese.

Forget contracts, or parties of the first and second part. Forget leases. I am thinking of how laws are worded, particularly how they appear on our ballots. Here, the English language is as a rapier slashing in a swordfight: clause, comma, clause, semi-colon, clause, comma, clause, period. But--irony of ironies--there remains only confusion in all this exactitude. I have difficulty with propositions--sometimes, it seems, "no" doesn't really mean "no." Without the supplemental information provided by the League of Women Voters, I would frequently be rebuffed in my effort merely to comprehend the ballot.

The League is Y I am able to cast the votes I do with some degree of confidence.

*— Joseph Oldenbourg*

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**Publisher/Editor**: Joseph Oldenbourg
joseph@ourvalleyvoice.com

**Associate Editor/Sales**: Steve Pastis (steve@ourvalleyvoice.com)

**Staff**:
Catherine Doe, writer (catherine@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Tony Maldonado, webmaster (tony@ourvalleyvoice.com)
April Heath Pastis, writer (april@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Louie Luna, sales (louie@ourvalleyvoice.com)

**Contact us & share your opinion**
www.ourvalleyvoice.com
208 W. Main St., Ste. E • Visalia, CA 93291

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# Political Fix

Catherine Doe

### *People*'s Sexiest Men Alive

It's old news who the Tea Party hates more than a Democrat--the same person who a Democrat loathes, a moderate Republican. Actually, Democrats don't hate them: They fear them. Enter stage right, Neel Kashkari.

If Mr. Kashkari decides to run again in 2018, no one will be more of a threat to liberal Democrat Gavin Newsom. Yes, Mr. Kashkari is currently losing to an RV-roving wing nut. But this is the type of guy who can win, even when losing. Just a brief reading of Mr. Kashkari's biography (engineer for the James Webb Telescope, investment banker at Goldman Sachs, U.S. Treasury official, on *People*'s 2008 list of sexiest men alive) leaves one asking-- is there anything this guy can't do?

Mr. Kashkari will lose to Tim Donnelly this week, but the backlash against the fringe that pushed Mr. Donnelly through the primary will be fierce. He will so thoroughly embarrass the Republican Party during his campaign for governor that many Californians, including Democrats, will look back wistfully on Mr. Kashkari thinking, "Gee what a great guy, why doesn't he run for Governor?"

One can only imagine the collective cringe during Gov. Brown and Assemblyman Donnelly's first, and hopefully last, debate as Mr. Donnelly describes his Arizona-style immigration policies or implies the inferiority of a transgender child. Gov. Brown may pull off the biggest landslide victory in California's history, and the rolls of registered Republicans will dwindle even further.

Many have already put this election behind them and are preparing for 2018. One of four Republican challengers running against Attorney General Kamala Harris complained that, "she is looking right past us." This is true. Both Ms. Harris and Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom have little to no competition in their races for re-election, and are assumed to be preparing for when they are termed out of office in four years. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Ms. Harris and Mr. Newsom have raised a combined $5.6 million in campaign money. In contrast, all seven Republican candidates for Lt. Governor and Attorney General, combined, have raised $31,000. All the money Ms. Harris and Mr. Newsom don't spend this campaign can be used in 2018.

I predict that Ms. Harris and Mr. Newsom will have a private, contentious meeting to figure out who between them will run for Governor in four years. The baton will most likely be passed to the current Lt. Governor, but the entire political landscape of California will change if Senator Feinstein, who is currently 80-years old, decides not to run.

What will happen if Mr. Kashkari and Mr. Newsom--the two sexiest and best-qualified candidates in California--run for Governor in 2018? As the geologist all warn, get ready for the big one.

### Will Your Write-In Vote Count?

How many of us in elections past, unable to decide who to vote for, wrote in Mickey Mouse? It seems to me that every four years the political pundits snicker at how many votes Mr. Potato Head got for President. But not in California. According to the Tulare County Registrar of Voters, they pull all ballots with write-in votes, but unless it's a certified candidate, your write-in does not get tabulated. Sorry, Mickey.

Alaska must have a different system because, according to Wikipedia, in the 1997 election for Mayor of Talkeetna, Stubbs the Cat won more votes than the two human candidates. He has been re-elected every mayoral election since, and as of July 18, 2012, celebrated 15 years in office.

Back here in the lower 48, the California Secretary of State just released their official list of write-ins. According to Scot Lay of *Around the Capital*, " The top-two (primary) provides an opportunity for write-ins to get on the general election ballot without paying filing fees, which are $952.91 for Assembly and Senate this cycle. To be a certified write-in simply requires 40 valid signatures. As expected, nearly all of the districts in which only one candidate filed "normally" had a write-in qualify. On June 3, so long as one vote is cast for the write-in, they earn a place on the November ballot. In 2012, the first cycle we used top-two, a candidate earned a spot on the November ballot with only three votes.

Even before the "top-two" primary initiative passed in 2010, California required write-ins to be certified. The certified list is posted at every polling place and write-ins are manually counted, even if the name is slightly misspelled. Of course, by Election Day, three-fourths of the ballots have already been turned in, so it seems kind of silly.

Gail K. Lightfoot announced mid-May that she took out nomination papers to be a write-in candidate in the 23rd Congressional District. The incumbent, Kevin McCarthy, is running unopposed in the primary, opening the door for a write-in campaign and a spot on the November ballot. Ms. Lightfoot will have some competition, though, because three other people qualified for the official list of write-ins for the 23rd district.

The eastern edge of Tulare County is in the 23rd district, including Porterville and the small towns of Lindcove, Lemon Cove, Three Rivers, Springville and Strathmore. Of the three congressional districts in Tulare County, the 23rd is the only one affected by write-in competition. So Rep. McCarthy's seat is considered safe--that is, unless Stubbs the Cat is on the certified list.

### Not a Test Run

Tulare County is in three State Senate Districts. Senate District 8 is represented by Tom Berryhill, who is running against a relative unknown. Covering the foothills region, Lemon Cove and Three Rivers are the only two communities in his district. Senate District 16 takes up the largest portion of Tulare County and is represented by Jean Fuller, who is running unopposed. Then there is the 14th District that covers all of Kings County and surrounds Visalia and Tulare, taking in the little rural communities of Allensworth, Earlimart and Lindsay, among others. This is one of the hottest races right now.

Some would say that the primary last Tuesday was just a test run for Sen. Andy Vidak and Fresno School Board Trustee Luis Chavez. Maybe it was for Sen. Vidak, but that would be pretty far from the truth for Mr. Chavez. No one expected Mr. Chavez to come in first, but anything wider than a 4% gap will send the big-time Democratic money running. At press time it is 69% Sen. Vidak to 37% for Mr. Chavez.

But how did Senate District 14 get to this point? Before a Republican won eighteen months ago, three consecutive Democrats had held this seat: Michael Rubio, Dean Florez and Jim Costa. When Mr. Rubio stepped down mid-term, Republicans were successful in flipping the district, and the Democrats are still mad. Barack Obama won 58.3% of the vote to Mitt Romney's 39.8% in 2012. Democrats out-register Republicans by 17% in this district. Losing this district has been an embarrassment to the Democratic Party, and Mr. Chavez is hoping for a little vindication.

### Fresno GOP Knows Best

According to John Ellis of the *Fresno Bee*, "Republican gubernatorial candidate Neel Kashkari has the backing of former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, presidential nominee Mitt Romney, former California Gov. Pete Wilson and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. But he doesn't have the backing of the Fresno County Republican Party."

What does the Fresno GOP know that Merced and Madera County and the other adults in the room don't know? Not much. They also endorsed Phil Wyman for Attorney General. Mr. Wyman advocates the death penalty for state lawmakers who are convicted of crimes that might aid terrorists--as is the case against State Senator Leland Yee. According to the Associated Press, Mr. Wyman is quoted as saying, "The most egregious abusers of their public office, if convicted, should be able to choose their method of death – public hanging, firing squad or lethal injection – as a deterrent to others." Mr. Wyman continued, "Firing squad -- at least that's a bit more macho than getting some other cocktail." When asked for comment, a Republican spokesperson said, "How can you even respond to something that ludicrous?"

Laura Gadke, former chair of the Tulare County Republican Party, said that their bylaws prevent them from making an endorsement when there are two Republicans running for the same office. That's why they haven't made any endorsements for Assembly District 26, Sheriff, or the District Attorney's races. "But we all love Rudy and want to see him win," she couldn't help adding.

### Not Setting It Straight

The contentious Fresno County District Attorney race between incumbent Elizabeth Egan and challenger Lisa Smittcamp has reached $1 million in funds raised and spent. The race for Tulare County District Attorney has cost half that amount, but we certainly are getting our money's worth. And if the campaign lasted just a few weeks more, the rancor might have reached their competitiveness.

The campaign started with Ralph Kaelble accusing the current DA, Tim Ward, of engaging in "Louisiana-style politics." The campaign ended with a curious push by the *Visalia Times-Delta* (*VTD*) to encourage everyone to vote for Mr. Kaelble. Their endorsement was a day late and a dollar short, with half of Tulare County having already voted by mail. The *VTD* then implied in their endorsement editorial that the rank-and-file in the DA's office endorsed Mr. Kaelble, when they themselves had printed a letter by the rank-and-file endorsing Mr. Ward. My favorite though, is the *VTD*'s assertion that Mr. Ward exploited the arrest of a hitman for his own re-election, when the *VTD* exploited the story even more by making it one of their lead articles. In the online version of their story, Mr. Ward's name is only mentioned once with his assistant, Anthony Fultz, getting most of the ink.

The Saturday before the election the *VTD* had this to say about their editorial page, "We will go to the polls to elect a new District Attorney, Sheriff, Assembly representative and others and the letters have been pouring in. We are dedicating space here and on the following page to publish all the letters we have received and have been able to verify before Tuesday's election."

Really? Then why, if there are so many local races on which to opine, was nearly every single letter critical of Mr. Ward and pro Mr. Kaelble--one of which bordered on being slanderous? There was only one letter that did not involve the DA's race, written by Dave Whaley and disputing the *VTD*'s endorsement policy--which, according to Mr. Whaley, there seems to be none. The editorial board did not invite each candidate to present their case for election, yet still made endorsements despite this.

One must ponder, what criteria did the *VTD* use when deciding who to endorse?

# Governor Appoints Two to Tulare County Fair Board

**Staff Reports**

Gov. Jerry Brown has appointed two business owners to fill vacancies on the 24th District Agricultural Association, Tulare County Fair Board of Directors.

The appointees are Gary Castro, president of KRC Safety Co., Inc., of Visalia, and Henry Patel, who owns four Subway franchises in Tulare.

Castro, a member of the Rotary Club of Visalia, says he "literally grew up at the Tulare County Fair" and recalls "running all over the fairgrounds in a golf cart" thanks to family members who were involved in managing the fair.

"I know the fair needs help and Assembly Member Connie Conway asked, so I said OK," Castro added.

Patel is "looking forward to the challenge" of turning the fair around and making it profitable. He knows from experience how that can be done, and he says it begins at the grassroots level.

"I was able to turn around my businesses and make them profitable and I know it may take awhile, but we will turn the fair around," Patel said. "I've been hearing about the financial difficulties and I'm pretty vocal, so after I voiced my concern, people told me to join and try to help. I'd like to see more people from all over the county participate in the fair and to do what we can to keep the fair affordable to families."

In addition to being a franchise owner, Patel serves on the board of the Subway Marketing Trust Fund, managing a $2 million fund, and he serves on the Coca-Cola Customer Service Advisory Board.

The Tulare County Fair runs Sept. 10-14. For information, visit tcfair.org or call 686-4707.

# Energysage Website Launched for Visalia

**Staff Reports**

The City of Visalia has announced the launch of the Visalia EnergySage Marketplace website. The EnergySage Marketplace provides quotes online from multiple, pre-screened installers and will assist Visalia businesses and residents in comparing offers in an apples-to-apples format across all financing options at no cost to them.

The Visalia EnergySage site offers a variety of educational resources, including an "Instant Estimate" tool. With "Instant Estimate," any home or commercial property owner in Visalia can get estimates of solar's costs and benefits under various financing options for their specific property. The process takes less than one minute to complete and is not connected to any lead generation or sales activities, so using the tool doesn't result in any pressure to buy or annoying sales pitches.

If you pay $100 per month on electricity, solar could save you nearly $20,000 over the next 20 years. The EnergySage platform automatically performs the calculations needed to adjust for differences in the quotes received—different system sizes or different assumptions used to calculate cost and benefits—so that consumers can easily compare quotes.

EnergySage is funded by the Department of Energy and is committed to simplifying the process of going solar and to reducing solar prices for consumers.

EnergySage's benefits extend to providers such as manufacturers, installers, financiers and other professionals involved in the solar PV sales process as well, through increased consumer awareness, knowledge and demand for their services. The program is open to all area solar installers and any company interested in participating should contact john@energysage.com or 617-453-8924.

Renewable energy is one way to conserve resources, and the City supports efforts to conserve and manage natural resources for the benefit of Visalia's citizens.

For more information, visit www.EnergySage.com/visalia.

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# SoCalGas Offers Emergency Preparedness Tips

**Staff Reports**

Earthquakes, fires and other emergencies strike suddenly. Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) is reminding customers about the importance of being prepared for California's next major emergency.

"Customer safety is a top priority for SoCalGas and we want to provide information to help our customers be ready for an emergency," said Jimmie Cho, SoCalGas vice president of gas operations. "After a natural disaster or major incident such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake or the recent wildfires, public safety services will likely be busy handling emergencies. We encourage customers to be prepared at all times."

SoCalGas offers these safety tips:

Before an emergency

- Know where your gas meter is located and keep a 12" or larger adjustable wrench with your emergency supplies, near your building exit or next to your gas meter shut-off valve. Do not store the wrench on the gas meter or other gas piping. Even in the case of an earthquake or other emergency, turn off your gas meter if you smell gas, hear gas leaking or see other signs of a leak —and ONLY if it is safe to do so.
- To help prevent your water heater from moving or toppling in an earthquake, strap it firmly to the wall studs in two places —the upper and lower one-third of the tank— with heavy bolts and metal strapping. Be sure to place the lower strap at least four inches above the thermostat controls. Kits are often available at your local hardware store and we recommend having a licensed, qualified professional install it for you.
- Call SoCalGas or a licensed, qualified professional to replace any semi-rigid aluminum or copper gas tubing appliance connectors with an approved flexible connector.
- Check safety devices, such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, to ensure that they are functioning properly.
- Call SoCalGas or a licensed, qualified professional to inspect your furnace and other gas appliances for safe operation and to make any needed repairs. Make sure flexible connectors are not subject to damage or passing through floors, walls or ceilings.

After an emergency:

- DO NOT turn off gas to the meter unless you smell gas, hear the sound of gas escaping or see other signs of a leak —and ONLY if it is safe to do so. If you turn off gas to the meter, leave it off. Do not turn it back on yourself. Interior gas piping and appliances must be inspected for possible damage before service can be safely restored. Call SoCalGas to turn the gas back on, to relight the pilots and service your appliances. Note that certain repairs may have to be performed by your plumber or heating contractor. However, only SoCalGas field employees are allowed to turn on the gas to the meter.
- For safety, a shut-off valve should be installed at every gas appliance, and may be required by state and/or local codes. If a leak occurs at a specific appliance, the valve will permit you to turn off the gas at the appliance rather than shutting off all gas service at the meter. Some valves require a wrench to turn them.
- Check your water heater and furnace vents. If the venting system becomes separated during an earthquake or other event, it could leak hazardous fumes into your home. Do not operate your appliance unless it is properly vented. Signs of an improperly vented appliance may include moisture on the inside of windows or an unusual odor when the appliance is in operation.
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# Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Receive Active Trails Grant

**Staff Reports**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have been selected to receive a 2014 Active Trails grant for $24,800 from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. Now in its sixth year, the Active Trails program supports healthy living by getting people out and active in national parks through projects that help restore, protect, and/or create land and water trails across the country. These projects include hands-on learning, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, volunteering and more.

"Through the Active Trails program, people across the country are connecting with their national parks, discovering more ways to lead active and healthy lives, and giving back to the places they love," said Neil Mulholland, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "These grants are critical to helping with ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the 17,000 miles of land and water trails across the National Park System."

Sequoia and Kings Canyon will use its $24,800 grant for an exciting and innovative project for students from Farmersville High School in Farmersville and from Sequoia High School in Visalia in July. Students will camp in the parks for three weeks and rehabilitate trails in front-country and wilderness areas. In addition, students will participate in learning, team-building, and recreation. The project will be managed by a mix of high school teachers and National Park Service staff.

"This program will improve park trails while engaging a younger, more diverse audience, who are the park stewards of the future," said Volunteer Coordinator Tim Barrett. "By participating in this experience, many students who have never visited the parks will have the opportunity to help preserve an iconic national park while being immersed in the wilderness for the first time."

Since 2008, the National Park Foundation has granted nearly $2.4 million through its Active Trails program. To date, Active Trails has engaged more than 5,900 volunteers and 327 project partners who combined have contributed more than 30,000 hours to help promote, refurbish or build national park trails that were ultimately enjoyed by 331,000 visitors.

"The National Park Foundation's Active Trails program provides vital funding that supports our national parks as centers of healthy outdoor activity for families and communities across the nation," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The land and water trails maintained by the National Park Service invite visitors to explore natural and cultural beauty, and these grants will expand these great opportunities to even more visitors."

The National Park Foundation wishes to thank The Coca-Cola Company, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Disney, the Scrooby Foundation, and Subaru for their generous support of the Active Trails program.

# Hamilton

Continued from p. 1

So began the exchange that set forth Porterville's reemergence into the media spotlight, nearly one year since last year's raucous debate over the controversial pride month proclamation.

The exchange has been played and replayed on countless news networks -- CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, CNN Headline News, and others -- and printed in newspapers across the state and nation -- the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Bakersfield Californian* and the *Washington Times*, among others.

"I did three interviews with CNN," Hamilton said. "It hit Fox and Friends, it hit Rush, it hit Hannity, it hit The Five, it hit The View -- of course, that [discussion] was derogatory."

For his part, Hamilton says that he could have used less colorful language -- but he stands by what he said. He also said that the media focus should be less on his statement and more at what he meant.

Members of the community felt that he may have been opposed to the proposal because of many "Safe Zones" being geared towards LGBT youth, especially after last year's proclamation controversy.

"What they did, is they did a Google search, and these people don't understand how these search engines work," Brock Neeley, a Porterville resident and local LGBT activist said. "They did a Google search and the first ten that happen to come up happen to be gay safe zone programs."

"My feelings were really hurt and I was, essentially, shocked by the end of it," Melissa McMurrey, a member of Gay Porterville, told local news station ABC30. "It kind of felt like a little bit of a witch hunt, even though that was not the initial intention, from my understanding, of the Safe Zone project."

Hamilton said that's not the case at all.

"The LGBTs were trying to say it was all about them. They weren't even being discussed," he said. "Safe Zones, if you look them up, of course, there's a whole bunch of them that are formed by the LGBT community. That wasn't the proposal."

He says that zero-tolerance policies in schools have backfired and created an environment in which bullied kids are afraid to stand up for fear of suspension or expulsion.

His opposition to the Safe Zone proposal stems from a combination of concern about city liability, ensuring the zones have properly background-checked people at them, costs for placards, and his view that bullies will simply find another place to antagonize their victims.

Instead, he says, students should stand up for their peers.

"If you were bullying somebody, and ten other students told you to knock it off, what would you do?" Hamilton said.

Hamilton also responded to an article published in the *Porterville Recorder* that took issue with him leaving during a meeting to talk on CNN.

"I was in L.A. the day before, and CNN wanted to do this follow-up program," he said. "I had an obligation to tell my story for the national news, and I had an obligation to be here.

"I was here. I did not step away from my responsibilities. The easiest thing in the world when you're under controversy is to skip a meeting," Hamilton said. "I've never done that in my whole life. I believe in open communication whether it's disfavorable or favorable."

He said he welcomes an open debate over the issue of bullying, and that his office is open for anyone who wants to discuss it.

"In today's world, we are in a time of tolerant intolerance -- so you need to tolerate what I have to say, but I'm not going to tolerate what you have to say," Hamilton said. "All that does is shut down communication."


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# Tulare County Officials Meet with State Drought Task Force

**Staff Reports**

Kings and Tulare County officials met with Gov. Jerry Brown's Drought Task Force last month to discuss and hear how the state's present and pending water shortage is affecting local agencies.

"This current drought is a dire situation that is going to require serious solutions," said Mike Ennis, District 5 supervisor. "The impacts of this drought in Tulare County are going to felt for years to come on many different levels."

Ennis said that county officials called for a water bond that includes funding for more water storage. They also expressed concerns about: a future farm worker shortage due to no work in the fields; local school funding declining because of farm workers leaving with their children; property and sales taxes for local government declining because of lower valuations on agriculture property and less people buying goods and services; and the impacts to the ports of Long Beach and Oakland due to the decline of the San Joaquin Valley's agriculture products.

Those invited to attend the meeting, held at the Ag Commissioner's Office in Tulare, included Ennis, Supervisor Allen Ishida, County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau, Ag Commissioner Marilyn Kinoshita and officials from Kings County who share similar roles.

State attendees included Mark Ghilarducci, State Office of Emergency Services; Karen Ross, secretary of Department of Food and Agriculture; Anna Caballero, secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency; Randall Deems, acting director of the Department of Housing and Community Development; and Mark Starr, deputy director of the Department of Public Health.

Pictured left to right are: Allen Zaremberg, CalChamber president/CEO; Donnette Silva Carter, Porterville Chamber of Commerce president/CEO; and Anne Buettner, CalChamber board chair and senior vice president of The Walt Disney Company.

# Porterville Chamber of Commerce Recognized for Excellence

The California Chamber of Commerce has named 26 local chambers of commerce to receive the President's Circle Award. Among those honored was the Porterville Chamber of Commerce. The award, first presented in 2009, recognizes chambers for excellence in business advocacy and helping their members comply with California employment laws.

President's Circle Award recipients published vote records of their state legislators on key business issues, generated letters to state elected officials on issues of interest to members and participated in the CalChamber compliance product resale program at an exemplary level.

This was the fifth year of recognition for the Porterville Chamber, which has a very active Government Affairs Committee and serves as a voice for business representing the interests of local area companies. Included in its advocacy efforts is activity to support job creation legislation and oppose proposed bills that call for barriers to business operation and are deemed job killer legislation.

In 2013, 27 chambers received the award; in 2012, there were 23 recipients; in 2011, 21 chambers received the recognition; in 2010, there were 22 award recipients; and in 2009, 13 local chambers received the award.

# Family HealthCare Network Announces 2014 Scholarship Recipients

**Staff Reports**

Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) announced that it has selected three high school seniors, two college students and a FHCN employee headed to medical school as the 2014 Anita de la Vega Scholarship recipients.

FHCN established the scholarship in 2009 to honor the memory of Anita de la Vega, a clinician with the network for 30 years and an individual who dedicated her career to serving underserved populations in Tulare County. Each recipient will receive a $600 scholarship for education.

Since 2010, FHCN has provided $10,800 in scholarships to students from Tulare and Kings Counties pursuing careers in health or community health. Scholarship funds are raised primarily from employee donations. Community donations are also accepted.

The 2014 Family HealthCare Network Anita de la Vega Scholarship High School recipients are:

• Briana Anaya, Hanford High School, attending California State University, San Diego, majoring in biology with the intent of becoming a physician or orthodontist;

• Mayeli E. Rodriguez, Golden West High School, attending California State University, Sacramento, majoring in nursing;

• Denivie M. Garivay, Corcoran High School, attending Biola University, majoring in biological science (pre-med).

The 2014 Family HealthCare Network Anita de la Vega Scholarship Junior College recipients are:

• Lorena Diaz, West Hills College, majoring in psychology with a focus on child development;

• Veronica Serrano Valencia, California State University, Fresno, majoring in social work.

The 2014 Family HealthCare Network Anita de la Vega Scholarship Employee recipient is Chuah Cha, A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (SOMA), majoring in osteopathic medicine.

For more information about the Family HealthCare Network Anita de la Vega Scholarship Fund, call Jon Bray, marketing and communications coordinator at 737-4932. If you are interested in making a donation to the scholarship fund, call Marya Vela at 737-4700.

# Kaweah Delta Hospital Guild Names Officers, Presents Check

The Kaweah Delta Hospital Guild has named its officers for fiscal year 2014-15: President Beverly Cheek, Vice President Mary Alice Johnson, Recording Secretary Mary Reeves, Corresponding Secretary Margaret Adams, Treasurer Sandy Saulque, Director 1 Judy Archer, Director 2 Donna Archer and Parliamentarian Judy Archer.

In 2013-14, the guild raised $108,442.90 for patient care equipment and last month presented a check for that amount to Dena Cochran, vice president of development for Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

The guild is an important part of the Kaweah Delta Health Care District's team. Guild volunteers serve in the surgery waiting room, the intensive care unit, discharge service, hemodialysis and with the book cart. Additionally, there are many dedicated volunteers who commit themselves to comforting patients by making quilts and baby blankets and delivering teddy bears to children. In fiscal year 2013-14, guild members spent 22,691 hours volunteering for the district.

For more information on how to become a guild volunteer, call 624-5985. For more information about Kaweah Delta Health Care District, visit www.kaweahdelta.org.

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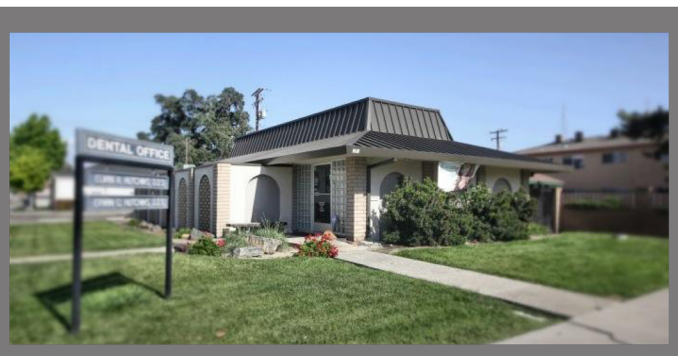


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# Election

Continued from p. 1

commanding 39% of the vote, which is impressive in a field of seven candidates. But more impressive was the dark horse candidate, Devon Mathis. When asked if he was surprised about his victory Mathis replied, "That was kind of my plan."

Mathis got the biggest bang for his buck this election, barely spending $4,000 compared to Mendoza's $120,000. "We did a lot of walking the precincts," Mathis said. "I'd like to thank Veterans for Mathis."

He also credited the success of his on-line campaign, specifically referring to the streamed candidates' debates.

"The general population liked my message that I plan on going to Sacramento to work with everyone. It's a job. It doesn't matter if you have a "D" or an "R" next to your name. Everyone is sick of the polarization of the parties. I want to build with what we have in common."

As for his opinion of Rudy? "I'm better educated, I have more leadership experience, and I know how to get things done." It looks like Rudy Mendoza is going to get a run for his money.

The winner of the biggest victory party of night went to Mike Boudreaux. He was also, perhaps because of the contentiousness of his race, the biggest winner. After months of wrangling over allegations of corruption within the sheriff's department and the possible illegality of having conducted a raffle in support of his campaign, Boudreaux won by a wide margin over his challenger, former undersheriff Dave Whaley.

Rudy Mendoza and Tim Ward watch the first election returns come in.

Boudreaux won by the largest gulf of any of the local races. At press time, Boudreaux was wining with 72% of the vote against Whaley's 27%. After victory became apparent, a receiving line formed just to shake Boudreaux's hand and extend congratulations.

District 5 Supervisor Mike Ennis

Supervisor Mike Ennis breathed a sigh of relief, winning over 50% of the vote to avoid a run-off for District 5. In second place, Virginia Gurrola garnered 23% of the vote. Greg Shelton trailed with 15%.

In a sad twist to the Porterville City Council race, incumbent Pete McCracken suffered a mild heart attack five days before the election. As of Tuesday, he was still recovering at Sierra View Hospital in Porterville. McCracken still managed to retain his seat on the council, coming in second to the former Deputy City Manager of Porterville, Milt Stowe.

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux poses for a selfie at the head of his receiving line.

# Ruiz 4 Kids 2014 Teacher Grant Applications Now Available Online

**Staff Reports**

Ruiz 4 Kids, the non-profit community-focused organization affiliated with Ruiz Food Products, Inc. has opened the application process for Teacher Grants for the 2015 school year. The deadline to submit an application is June 15.

"Can you imagine visiting a museum in another state without traveling? What about bringing in unique educational tools that not only teach but grab the attention of students? This is what the Ruiz 4 Kids Teacher Grants has made possible for Valley schools," said Kim Ruiz Beck, president of Ruiz 4 Kids and chairman of Ruiz Food Products, Inc. "Today's teachers continuously face the daily struggle of providing a quality education with minimal supplies. For many of these teachers, their dreams of classroom projects go beyond white boards and writing materials. It is our goal to help as many as we can go beyond their classroom walls. "

The grant is open to teachers in grades K-12 serving schools in Dinuba, Orosi, Orange Cove, Reedley, Traver and Parlier. Grant awards range from $300 to $1,000. For additional information on grant criteria and how to apply, visit www.ruiz4kids.org and click on the Teacher Grant link.

Ruiz 4 Kids, a non-profit organization formed in conjunction with Ruiz Foods, was founded in 1990 when Ruiz Team members approached Fred Ruiz asking him to help them explore ways to assist families with children in need. Since then, Ruiz 4 Kids has organized two annual fundraising events – a golf invitational to raise money for scholarships and a fiesta event to raise money for area non-profits that are in need to grow their children-focused programs.

Ruiz Foods is a privately owned corporation with corporate offices in Dinuba, dedicated to quality, authentically prepared frozen foods selling to all channels of distribution: retail, convenience store, clubs, vending, industrial and foodservice. The El Monterey brand is the market leader within the frozen Mexican food category and the No. 1 brand of frozen Mexican food in the U.S., The Tornados brand, introduced just nine years ago, has revolutionized the use of the roller grill in convenience stores.

Ruiz Foods employs over 2,300 Team Members in three facilities located in the United States. For more information regarding Ruiz Foods, visit www.ElMonterey.com.

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# Tulare County Excellence in Education Winners Announced

A selection committee of 15 Tulare County business and educational leaders met recently to review the Tulare County Administrator/Manager of the Year, Teacher of the Year and School Employee of the Year nominations for 2014. The "Excellence in Education" Awards program, now celebrating its 20th year, honors "the best of the best" in the three educational categories. A total of 30 nominations were received this year from Tulare County school districts, the College of the Sequoias and Porterville College. Each nomination was reviewed and scored individually by every member of the selection committee.

"The winners are truly champions for children," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "Each winner has a heart for seeing that students grow into independent, successful young adults. These creative individuals have designed and fostered innovative programs to help students meet those goals."

Once the selection committee reviewed each nomination and the scores were tallied, Vidak visited each of the winners to inform them of their award. The winners in the 2014 Excellence in Education program are:

Administrator of the Year - John Snavely, Ed.D., Superintendent, Porterville Unified School District

Dr. Snavely has served as superintendent of the Porterville Unified School District since 2001. In that time, he has overseen the development of some of Porterville Unified's most notable programs, including the construction of two new elementary schools, two new high schools, a new middle school and a new Adult School Complex. In addition, he has championed the development of the district's dual immersion program, a NASA-sponsored middle school academy, an increase in the number of Student Pathway Academies and the development of the National Academy Foundation School of Engineering at Harmony Magnet Academy.

Snavely is involved in numerous state, regional and local organizations, including serving on state committees for the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the Coalition for Adequate School Housing and the California Association of School Business Officials. Locally, he has been involved with the Porterville Chamber of Commerce, the Porterville Rotary Club and numerous other organizations.

Teacher of the Year – Anne Clifford, Teacher of the Severely Handicapped, Tulare County Office of Education

Clifford has been a teacher of the severely handicapped with the Tulare County Office of Education for 19 years. In 1997, she brought her great love for students and her high-energy teaching style to a newly opened class for adult students known as Community Based Instruction (CBI). Anne's class was the first of its kind in Tulare County, becoming a model for eight other CBI classrooms now operating throughout the county.

Clifford was praised by her nominators for teaching valuable life skills to her students, who are 18-22 years old. In her classroom, students learn job skills, how to navigate the city transportation system, how to manage money, proper social skills in public places and much more.Clifford was an early adopter of CHARACTER COUNTS!, a program which underpins all her daily instruction. Through it, students reflect on their behavior as measured by the Six Pillars of Character – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship and Fairness. She has been a national leader in infusing the program into special education instruction and has twice presented at National CHARACTER COUNTS! Conferences/Trainings.

School Employee of the Year – Ruben Alvarez, Work-Based Coordinator, Porterville Unified School District

Alvarez began his career with Porterville Unified in 2010 as the Work-Based Learning Coordinator within the district's Student Pathways Program. In this position, he manages multiple activities for students in the realm of student internship placement and career and college preparation training. On the business side of the program, he serves as a key liaison for up to 10 professional advisory boards supporting the Student Pathways Program.

Porterville Unified has benefitted from Alvarez's many years of job placement and training experience, gained in a variety of education and community service organizations. In the short time he has worked for the district, Alvarez has connected with over 200 business professionals to support the district's work-based learning initiative. He has also served to place over 600 high school students in internship positions. Last year alone, he trained 500 Porterville students in the skills they will need for a successful interview.

In addition to his work with the district, Alvarez has been an ambassador for the Porterville Chamber of Commerce, served on the Tulare County Youth Council, and founded the Porterville Youth Flag Football League. He has also been a presenter at numerous conferences on work-based learning.

Two finalists were also selected in each of the three categories:

Administrator of the Year – Tanya Goosev, Principal, Orosi High School, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified; and Larriann Torrez, Assistant Director, Tulare Adult School/Principal, Sierra Vista High School, Tulare Joint Union High School District.

Teacher of the Year – Melody Kelley, Fourth-Grade Teacher, Pleasant Elementary, Tulare City School District; and Joni Jordan, Curriculum/Outcomes Coordinator, College of the Sequoias.

School Employee of the Year - Jody Arriaga, Accounts Payable Supervisor, Tulare County Office of Education; and Bobbie Velasquez, Secretary to the Superintendent, Lindsay Unified.

Award recipients, finalists and nominees will be honored at a recognition breakfast beginning at 7:30am on October 28 at the Visalia Convention Center. Event attendees will enjoy a video highlighting the work of the overall winners.

"We greatly appreciate the support of our partners in this event – the Educational Employees Credit Union, its President/CEO Beth Dooley, and board of directors," said Vidak. "Together, we have the privilege of recognizing the many talented men and women who devote their lives to educating children and young adults in Tulare County."

For more information, call Marlene Moreno, Administrative Assistant, at (559) 733-6302.

# California Dairy Industry Redefines 'Milk Money'

**Staff Reports**

June is Dairy Month in California, and this year California dairy farmers and fluid milk processors are joining together to help local communities by supporting the Great American Milk Drive in the number one dairy state.

On a national level, this campaign, in conjunction with Feeding America, provides gallons of nutrient-rich milk for millions of families across the nation to help remedy the startling statistics that plague America's families in need. Closer to home, the Great American Milk Drive will enable local food banks to provide critical nourishment via milk, a nutrition staple, to food insecure families throughout California – especially during the summer months when low-income children are out of school and unable to participate in school nutrition programs.

According to the Census Bureau, one in four Californians live in poverty, with over 6.2 million Californians experiencing food insecurity. It's a commonly known fact that food banks regularly shy away from items that are perishable, like fluid milk. The California dairy industry is standing behind an important initiative that brings powerful protein to those who need it most, eliminating barriers at the food bank such as shelf life or storage. Thanks to consumer and industry donations, food banks will be able to provide their clients with vouchers that allow them to go to their local grocery store and pick up the milk when they need it.

During the month of June, the California dairy industry will provide additional support by matching consumer donations in California dollar-for-dollar (up to $30,000). Dairy farmers, milk processors and nutrition professionals from around the state also will team up with local food banks for "Days of Service" in June to bring awareness to the issue of hunger and celebrate their partnership.

Participating is as simple as a click of the mouse. Consumers can donate a gallon of milk (or more) by going online to www.MilkLife.com/Give. By entering a zip code, the donation will go to a Feeding America food bank in a selected local community.

"As an industry we are very concerned with giving all consumers access to healthy, nutritious products like milk. The Great American Milk Drive is close to the hearts and the core values of our dairy farm families who are part of local communities throughout the state," said Jennifer Giambroni, director of communications, California Milk Advisory Board, on behalf of the three partnering organizations: California Milk Advisory Board, California Milk Processors Board and Dairy Council of California.

For more information about the Great American Milk Drive and how to participate, visit gotmilk.com. You can also help support this important initiative and get the word out by using hashtag #gotmilkdrive.

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# Filming in Tulare County Starts to Snowball

**Steve Pastis**

More and more movie, television, video and even commercial producers are looking to Tulare County as the site of their filming locations. Over the years, the county has had its share of scenes in such notable films as "Stagecoach," "Hulk" and "Forest Gump," but now it seems that the county is getting a sudden influx of requests, and not just to film a quick scene.

Part of this increased interest is due to the aggressive marketing efforts of the Tulare County Film Commission. Part of the interest is the result of the way the county has been showcased in recent productions, such as a popular video for a song from a hit movie.

In February, Zedd featuring Matthew Koma and Miriam Bryant were at Sequoia National Park to film a video for "Find You," a song featured in the movie "Divergent."

"They wanted a wilderness look that they could only get with Giant Sequoias," explained Eric Coyne, Tulare County film commissioner & tourism manager. He added that the crew went to the national park on Super Bowl Sunday, expecting to have to create snow. Instead they found snow on the ground. "They saved $100,000."

The video of the song was posted at YouTube where it had 4 million hits in four days, and more than 6 million hits total. The video debuted at the SXSW Festival in Austin and was also shown on Nickelodeon.

"This led to two more video requests," said Coyne, who wasn't free to provide names but would only say that one was from a well known Latin American hip hop star, and the other was from a popular female country music star.

In addition to attracting film crews because of its scenic locations, Tulare County is drawing interest for educational programming. A Korean film crew was in the area to do a documentary on the Giant Sequoias for the Korean Educational Broadcast Network over Memorial Day weekend. They were well educated about the flora of the area, but unaware about the crowds that gather at Sequoia National Park on that weekend.

"They weren't able to get in to see the General Sherman Tree," said Coyne, who suggested they try Balch Park. "They never heard of the park, but they heard of the trees that are there. They were very familiar with the writings of (John) Muir."

The crew had intended to film in a few counties, but after visiting Tulare County decided to do all the filming here, said Coyne. "They focused on the Giant Sequoias and what they found interesting is that the biggest trees grow from the smallest cones.

"They taught me things I didn't know about sequoias," added Coyne. "Sequoias have no age limit in their DNA. Theoretically, they could live over 10,000 years."

The Korean film crew explored Balch Park and Mountain Home State Forest with equipment that produces film 32 times sharper than HDTV. The results of their filming will appear on Korean television in October 2015, reaching an estimated audience of 40 million, according to Coyne.

"They got sidetracked by mushrooms," noted Coyne. "They were picking and eating them left and right. They were fascinated by our corner of the country."

The Bollywood production "My Country" films at Mooney Grove.

Last week, a film crew was in Tulare County to film another Wal-Mart commercial. Once again, this commercial follows fruit from where it's picked to where it's eaten by the consumer.

"Last fall, they did oranges," said Coyne. "Now they're doing peaches. This time, it's not just beautiful peaches, but it's at a beautiful orchard in the Dinuba area."

Michael Washam, Tulare County economic development manager, credits the videos created by the Tulare County Film Commission with the increased interest in filming in the county, especially the video that makes use of a drone (www.youtube.com/channel/UCSvpOH87ZmbGbRHsPog-hZw).

"That helped sell Balch Park," he said.

"The video has led to more than a dozen serious inquiries," said Coyne, who mentioned the Bollywood film in Mooney Grove and three Balch Park film projects for Korean television. "'My Country,' for Indian Bollywood was filmed there two weeks ago."

The drone, which was requested by the producers of "Hyperion," was also used by the commission to get a birds-eye view of various locations in the county. The county was able to use the drone because a purely commercial use, such as the aerial views of Sequoia National Park that were important for the film "Hyperion," weren't enough alone to get FAA permission.

"Hyperion," which films in several Tulare County locations, "is the story of Ren, a college senior, who is in the hospital recovering from an infection caused by her cystic fibrosis," reads an online movie synopsis. "When Carl visits Ren, despite the fact her family doesn't want him around, Ren tells him she doesn't want to waste away as a victim. As he struggles to do something, anything, for the woman that he loves, Carl comes to the radical conclusion that he, and his best friend Phil, can escape with Ren and travel to the redwoods on a road trip north, fulfilling Ren's lifelong dream to the majestic trees in person."

In addition to filming at the national park, the producers decided to film other scenes in Springville and Porterville. "They were going to film the hospital scenes in L.A., but it can cost $600 to park a car in Malibu," said Coyne. "Even laundromats in Malibu have rate sheets showing the cost to film there. They cancelled their shoot in L.A. to film at Sierra View Hospital. They used a section of the hospital that was being used for staff training."

So far, "Hyperion" has only been screened to "insiders," including this week's screening at a director's guild event, according to Coyne. A release date is yet to be announced.

For more information about filming in Tulare County, visit www.filmtulare-county.com.

"Hyperion" films at Sequoia National Park.

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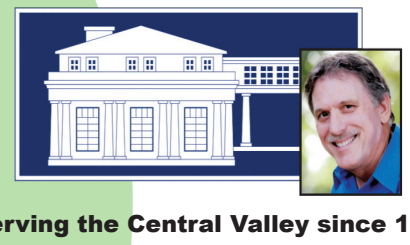

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# Winners Selected in Annual Slick Rock Student Film Festival

Middle school students hesitantly emerged from the limousines that transported them to the Slick Rock Student Film Festival, moving cautiously toward the red carpet walk and the entrance to the Visalia Fox Theatre. In contrast, high school participants "owned" the red carpet – posing for photographers and speaking authoritatively in interviews with the videographer.

El Diamante High School's Courtney Berk (left) and Randi Sumpter receive a check from Tulare County Supervisor Allen Ishida for their film "Take a Walk."

"Slick Rock is not only helping students develop as filmmakers, but as confident young adults," says CHOICES Prevention Programs Supervisor Adam Valencia. "Slick Rock gives participants the real world experience they can use in college and career - the experience of working creatively and collaboratively with teammates and with members of the community."

The Fox Theatre was abuzz with young filmmakers on Saturday, May 17. The festival, which accepted films from middle and high schools in seven central Valley counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare), received over 400 video entries this year – double the amount submitted in 2013. Middle school students could enter films in seven categories, while high school students had a choice of 14 categories. To see the winning videos in each of the categories, visit www.SlickRockFestival.org.

Slick Rock is generously supported by the Tulare & Kings Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Tulare County Film Commission, Tulare County Step Up Initiative, and ABC30.

# Visalia Chamber Man and Woman of the Year Finalists Announced

**Staff Reports**

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce announced the 2014 Man, Woman and Emerging Leaders Year finalists. The winners are kept top secret until the Annual Awards Celebration on June 19th at the Visalia Convention Center. The chamber received many nominations for these prestigious awards, which honor those individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support our community.

The 2014 Man and Woman and Emerging Leaders of the Year finalists include:

Woman of the Year Finalists – Debbie Gullord, Cheryl Christman, Marie Morrison, Helen Hurley and Debbie Terry.

Man of the Year Finalists – Robert Line, Don Ritter, Jody Graves and Sam Sciacca.

Emerging Leaders – Ben Filiponi, Matt Graham, Sarah Heaney, July Hong, Steve McCartha, Jennifer Pendergraft, Darcy Stotesberry and Rosalinda Verde.

The 2014 small, medium, large, agri-business and non-profit of the year finalists include:

Small Business Finalists – Adventure Park Visalia, Details Party Rental, Visalia Eye Center and Zylstra Automotive.

Medium Business Finalists – Milan Institute, Prestige Assisted Living, ServiceMaster by Benevento, Suncrest Bank and Visalia Ceramic Tile.

Large Business Finalists – Bank of the Sierra, Butler Manufacturing/BlueScope Buildings North America, Jo-Ann Fabric & Craft Stores West Coast Distribution Center, Redwood Springs Healthcare Center and Visalia Medical Clinic.

Agri-Business Finalists – Cacciatore Fine Wines & Olive Oil Company, Farmer's Fury Winery, Lawrence Tractor and Rabobank.

Non-Profit of the Year Finalists – CASA of Tulare County, Family Services Tulare County, Hands in the Community, Happy Trails Riding Academy, Read for Life and Sweet Nectar Society.

The Annual Awards Celebration on June 19th begins at 6pm with a social hour featuring entertainment, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 7pm and the main event will begin at 8pm. Tickets are $70 each, or you can reserve a table of eight for $520. Call the Visalia Chamber office for more details at 734-5876.

# Marijuana

Continued from p. 1

enclosed green house at her property, which would be illegal under the ban.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors regulates the cultivation of pot only in unincorporated areas. Their ruling today would not affect growers in incorporated cities such as Visalia or Exeter. The board's main motivation to ban medical marijuana is because of its link with violent crimes and the fact that some growers used the veil of medical marijuana to operate lucrative and illegal pot gardens and dispensaries.

Tulare County is following the lead of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors that banned all marijuana cultivation in their unincorporated areas starting in February. The ban includes fines of $1,000 per plant.

According to the *Fresno Bee*, "Sheriff Margaret Mims said the cultivation ban can't come soon enough. In 2013, there were 20 violent incidents involving marijuana cultivation. Mims estimates the cost of enforcement at $307,000 annually. County officials had no estimates on how much money the fines and any liens would reap under the ordinance."

Fresno County was the first to ban medical marijuana cultivation in California. The ban goes against what 56% of the voters of California intended when they approved proposition 215 in 1996. Called the California Compassionate Use Act, the law makes it legal for patients and their caregivers to grow marijuana for their personal medical use, but also gave counties and cities the right to regulate where it's grown. Patients diagnosed with an illness where the use of marijuana was recommended by a doctor now had legal access to the drug. The most common conditions alleviated with marijuana are arthritis, anorexia, cancer, chronic pain, HIV or AIDS, epilepsy, migraine and multiple sclerosis. California was the first state to legalize medical marijuana, and in May, 2014 Minnesota became the 22nd.

There are important legal differences between medical marijuana at the federal and state levels. At the federal level, pot is illegal due to the implementation of the Controlled Substances Act. This act states that marijuana has no current accepted medical use and that it has a high potential for abuse. But even the federal government is changing its attitude to match the 81% of Americans who believe medical marijuana should be legal. In 2009, new federal guidelines were enacted that deprioritized going after crimes involving pot."It will not be a priority to use federal resources to prosecute patients with serious illnesses or their caregivers who are complying with state laws on medical marijuana," said Attorney General Eric Holder.

Just last week, Congress voted to block the Justice Department from interfering with state laws permitting the use, distribution, possession or cultivation of medical marijuana. The measure now heads to the Senate where it is expected to pass. Forty-nine Republicans voted for this provision, including some of the most conservative. All local Republican Congressmen voted against it except Tom McClintock of Mariposa.

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South Valley Vascular
Sequoia Regional Cancer Center
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Kaweah Delta HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

# Pollution

Continued from p. 1

Beach-Riverside and Modesto-Merced.

The rankings look bad on paper, but what does that really mean for those of us who live in Tulare and Kings Counties?

"Both those forms of air pollution are associated with all kinds of problems," said Tulare County Health Officer Karen Haught, M.D., who said that the county has 137 heart disease-related deaths per 100,000, compared with 106 in the state.

Haught explained that ozone is a formed by the effects of sunlight on different gasses, such as those created by cars and power plants, adding that the problem is worse in the summer.

Particulate pollution is the level of fine particles in the air. "They are the things that can get down into your lungs," Haught said, listing gas, soot and exhaust as the main sources. "To some extent, particle pollution happens naturally in things like dust," she added.

"On days that are bad, please limit your physical activity outside," she cautioned. "And limit your use of cars so you don't contribute to the pollution on those days."

"People who do outdoor exercise have to be aware of the season," said A.M. Aminian, M.D., medical director of the Allergy Institute, which has offices in Visalia and Fresno. "If you like running in the morning, you have to be aware that mornings aren't good for allergies – but mornings are better in the summer, with air pollution worse from noon to 6pm. You have to know when to be outdoors and when not to be outside."

Those who believe that they are better off running anyway are making a mistake, according to Aminian. "They are going to be hurting themselves because they're just going to be inhaling all those particulates," he said.

Pollutants can result in stuffy or runny noses and watery eyes, symptoms that are like allergies, according to Aminian, who added that people in the area who have allergies have additional problems because of the pollution here.

"This area is closed on three sides by mountains," Aminian said. "Whatever comes here doesn't have an outlet." He added that the weather is not helping the situation. "When we have any wet weather, a lot of the pollution can be washed off, but in a year like this year when we don't have any rain, people have more problems. More people this year are sick.

"The air is so bad here that we're in the top four in asthma deaths," he continued. "One in five children has asthma here."

Aminian estimates that air pollution in the area is about 85% the result of Mother Nature and 15% manmade. In focusing on the 15% "that we can do something about," he said education and regulation can improve the quality of our air. He added that things were getting better here, "but the Mother Nature part is not cooperating."

Haught showed some optimism about air quality in the South Valley. "If you compare (the numbers in the report) to previous rates, they are better," she said. "The air is improving over time." She credits the California Air Resources Board for creating "more stringent" regulations to decrease air pollution levels.

The American Lung Association report also claims some "key successes" in the Valley. "Since the 2000 report, unhealthy ozone days have fallen by 37% in the region. Unhealthy spikes in particulates have fallen by 50% since the 2004 report. While seven of the eight counties fail in the annual particulate category, an 18% drop has been reported for the region since the 2004 report. Passenger vehicle and diesel engine controls have helped reduce emissions regionally."

To continue to lower air pollution levels in the Valley, the association offers four "key solutions": maintaining and enhancing wood burning controls; community planning focused on walking, biking and transit alternatives to driving; the use of zero emission vehicles and fuels; and supporting sustainable zero and near-zero emission freight technologies.

# America's Tire Opens First Shop in Visalia

**Staff Reports**

America's Tire, the world's largest tire and wheel retailer, opened its first tire store in Visalia. The new store is located at 3921 S. Mooney Blvd.

Providing low prices on tires and wheels combined with pride in customer service, America's Tire strives to serve as its customers' knowledgeable and convenient neighborhood retailer. The 7,373-square-foot store is located near the crossroads of South Mooney and West Cameron Avenue and is open from 8am to 6pm Monday through Friday and from 8am to 5pm on Saturday. The store is closed on Sunday.

America's Tire on Mooney Boulevard in Visalia.

"We are proud to be a part of this community, providing a needed service for tires to Visalia residents," said Jeramie Duncan, store manager of the new store. Duncan has been with the company for 16 years.

America's Tire is committed to promoting from within and is always looking for qualified individuals to join them in their growth. The new store in Visalia will operate with seven new employees. The store expects to add additional positions as it grows.

"We are always growing and seeking opportunities to serve communities like Visalia," said Glenn Sutter northern California regional vice president for America's Tire. "We are proud to be moving in and supporting the development of this growing community, as well as ensuring the Visalia area has a tire expert to educate them about the basics of tire safety."

America's Tire sells a wide selection of leading tire brands such as Michelin, Goodyear, Bridgestone, Yokohama, Kumho, BFGoodrich, Pirelli, Falken and GT Radial, along with Discount Tire exclusive brands such as Arizonian, Road Hugger, Pathfinder and MB Wheels. Discount Tire also offers a variety of custom wheel brands including Liquid Metal, American Outlaw, Vision Wheel, Level 8, Voxx, TSW, Konig, Drag and many others.

America's Tire operates 135 stores in California. Customers can purchase tires and wheels in the store, by mail order or online. At americastire.com, customers can locate a store, purchase tires, schedule installation appointments, register for email discounts, gain access to safety tips and other helpful information, and even determine tire and wheel size by brand for their vehicle.

The new Visalia America's Tire store phone number is 429-3027.

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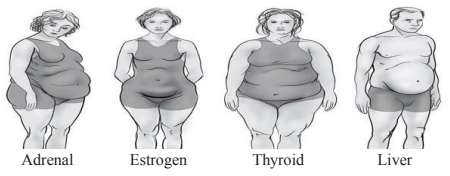

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Home-Generated
**Sharps**
Drop-Off Days

**These events are only for residents of Tulare County:**

- **June 14 (Saturday) 10 am to 2 pm**
  Tulare City Hall - 411 E. Kern - Rear Parking Lot
- **June 26 (Thursday) 2 pm to 6 pm**
  Dinuba Transit Center Parking Lot - 180 W. Merced
- **July 10 (Thursday) 2pm to 6pm**
  Visalia - Parking Lot 44 - Tipton at Oak, between Center and Murray
- **July 19 (Saturday) 8 am to 12 pm**
  Porterville Corporation Yard
  555 N. Prospect, Enter on Grand Ave

The new Home-Generated Sharps Waste Collection Program goes into effect on July 1, 2014. To launch the program, Consolidated Waste Management Authority is hosting four free drop-off events throughout Tulare County to collect sharps from residents. Sharps will only be accepted in approved certified sharps containers.

The program provides Tulare County residents free drop-off of their used sharps at the local retailer where they originally purchased their sharps.

**What are home-generated sharps?**
Needles, syringes and lancets used by residents for themselves, family members, or their pets.

**Why do I need to use the drop-off service?**
It is illegal to dispose of sharps waste in the trash, recycling, and yard waste containers or flush them down the toilet.

**What do I need to know?**

- Certified sharps containers can be purchased at your local pharmacy.
- Sharps in any other type of container will not be accepted.
- No drugs or prescription medicines accepted.
- These events are for home-generated sharps waste only.
- Proof of Tulare County residency is required by showing either a driver's license or current utility bill with a Tulare County address.

CWMA

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# Briefly...

### Kraft Foods Group Voluntarily Recalls Select Products

Kraft Foods Group announced on May 17 that it was voluntarily recalling select Knudsen Cottage Cheese, Breakstone's Cottage Cheese, Simply Kraft Cottage Cheese and Daily Chef Cottage Cheese products made at its Tulare plant.

"Some ingredients used in these products were not stored in accordance with Kraft's temperature standards," stated a company release. "While unlikely, this could create conditions that could lead to premature spoilage and/or food borne illness; therefore, the company is issuing the recall as a precaution. The affected products all have code dates from May 9, 2014 through July 23, 2014."

Approximately 1.2 million cases of affected product were shipped to customers across the United States. The affected products were not distributed outside of the United States. For more information, visit www.kraftfoodsgroup.com.

### VUSD, Teachers Reach Tentative Agreement

The Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) and the Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA) have reached a tentative agreement that includes a 3.5% cost of living increase to the salary schedule. Also, the agreement "unfreezes" a previous step freeze, resulting in a restructured salary schedule. Additionally, two longevity stipends were increased. Step and column movement and the 2014-15 increased cost for health benefits for eligible bargaining unit members will also be funded by the district. There are no changes to current benefit plans.

The district and association also agreed to continue the work of the Middle School Alternative Scheduling Committee and the Evaluation Committee. Also, the district is in the process of hiring additional teachers to implement the negotiated K-3 Class Size Reduction (known as Grade Span Adjustment).

VUTA will move forward with informational meetings and, if ratified by its members, the tentative agreement will be presented to the VUSD Board of Trustees for its consideration on June 24. VUSD thanked John DeLong, lead negotiator for VUTA, and both bargaining teams for reaching this agreement, which concludes negotiations for the 2014-15 contract year.

### City of Tulare Plans Drought-Related Water Surcharge

The City of Tulare is considering charging its residents a surcharge on their water bills because of the drought. The extra money would cover the cost of the wells lowering due to minimal rain over three years.

According to the *Tulare Voice*, "'Residents in a typical single-family home, which uses about 16,000 gallons of water per month, would see their bill increase from the current $21.65 per month to $24.07 per month in the 2014-2015 fiscal year,' city officials said in the proposed letter to water users. The Board of Public Utilities would review the surcharge every four months to determine if it were necessary to continue it."

The surcharge would be a flat fee of $1.36 per meter rate to cover fixed costs and a variable rate of .0663 cents per thousand gallons used. It is the intention of the Tulare City Council that the surcharge be temporary and be in addition to already-approved rate increases.

The hearing won't happen until August, however, because of a law that dictates voters must receive notice at least 45 days prior to a public hearing.

### Tulare County Library Food for Fines 'Forgives' $4,642

The semi-annual "Food for Fines" program sponsored by the Tulare County Library raised 3,661 pounds of food items to benefit county residents in need. The food was donated to Foodlink for distribution throughout the county.

During the month-long event, anyone who brought in non-perishable food items to any branch of the Tulare County Library had their fines reduced or eliminated. The library forgave $4642.22 in fines for donors to the program, almost double the amount forgiven in the first drive last November. In addition, many library patrons made food or cash donations without having fines on their library accounts.

Foodlink will use the items to restock the pantries of food banks throughout the county. Items collected from the 15 branches will be distributed in each branch's local community and surrounding areas.

"Food for Fines" is a team effort sponsored twice a year by the library and Foodlink. The next one will be held in November.

### Adventist Medical Center-Hanford Receives Women's Choice Award

Adventist Medical Center-Hanford has been named a recipient of the Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Hospitals in Emergency Care.

"The award is based on robust criteria that consider patient satisfaction, clinical excellence and what women really want when it comes to treatment and a quality hospital experience," said Delia Passi, CEO and founder of WomenCertified, which presents the Women's Choice Award. "Adventist Medical Center-Hanford not only performed well clinically with regard to emergency care measures, but they also have a high recommendation rating, which is very important to women when it comes to health related decisions."

"Our emergency teams work hard to provide high-quality care and an excellent patient experience," said Wayne Ferch, president and CEO of Adventist Health / Central Valley Network, which includes Adventist Medical Center-Hanford. "The average time to see an emergency physician or provider averaged just 22 minutes in March 2014."

### Citizens Business Bank Completes Acquisition of American Security Bank

Citizens Business Bank announced that it has completed its merger with American Security Bank. The acquisition, which was first announced on February 18, was concluded last month following receipt of all required regulatory approvals. As of March 31, American Security Bank had $431 million in assets and Citizens Business Bank had $6.9 billion in assets.

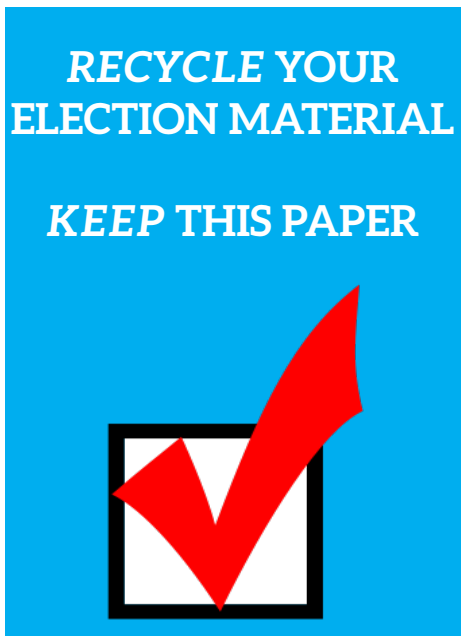
"The merger with American Security Bank is an exciting opportunity for Citizens Business Bank to further expand our footprint in the Southern California marketplace," said Christopher D. Myers, president and CEO. "We intend to build upon the strong foundation American Security Bank established and broaden customer relationships through our enhanced product offerings and higher credit capacity."

### Earlimart School District to Receive Salad Bar Donation

The Earlimart School District will be receiving a new salad bar thanks to the 2014 Tour de Fresh, a charity cycling event coordinated by fresh produce industry members to benefit the Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools Campaign. Michael Toms, riding for HMC Farms, a bronze sponsor of the event, selected the Earlimart School District to benefit from his fundraising efforts leading up to the 275-mile ride along the California Coast in October.

"This event gives participants a great opportunity to step out of our day-to-day, business roles and support a cause we are very passionate about," said Toms. "I'm excited to raise funds for the Earlimart School District that will help them to provide more healthy eating options for their students."

Toms, along with his 39 fellow riders, aims to raise a total of $120,000 to finance 40 salad bars in school districts around the country. To make donations toward the salad bar for the Earlimart School District, visit www.tourdefresh.com/riders and navigate to Toms' rider profile. In addition, you may also participate in the same training process as Tour riders by downloading The Official Tour de Fresh Training Guide at tourdefresh.com. For more information, call Brock Nemecek at (214) 444-7454.

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# Speaking to the Dead — Are Mediums for Real?

**Catherine Doe**

*This is the first of a three-part series.*

Did you ever wonder, "What would Grandma do?" Well, now you can ask her. Tulare and Kings Counties have a rich variety of mediums who can speak to those who have passed. Most people who seek a reading aren't just looking for cooking tips from their late Aunt Gertrude. Usually, it means that someone has died out of the natural order of things and their loved ones need closure. Using the services of a medium to help deal with serious life issues, or connect with someone who has died, has been around for hundreds of years—but only just recently has it gained acceptance.

How do you find a medium? If you enjoy throwing away your money, you can log on to ASKNOW.COM Try Us Free Psychics. But you might be better off going to your local New Age retailer that has a reputable in-house medium. The Crystal Barn in Mary's Vineyard has been in business for 25 years. Diane Wilson was their in-house psychic for 19 of them, the last 12 as a medium. She has since moved to Montana, and continues doing readings over the phone. Wilson will be back to the Crystal Barn just for the month of September to take appointments and possibly do a gallery reading.

Michelle Tedrow is another experienced medium who works out of the Cosmic Corral in downtown Hanford. With the new four-lane Highway 198, the Cosmic Corral is only about a 15-minute drive from Visalia. Another option is at the New Earth Expo that comes through Fresno about every three months and is in town on June 29th at the Piccadilly Inn. This is where Tedrow got her first reading that validated she was on the correct spiritual path.

Wilson started out at the Crystal Barn by doing psychic readings. She made the transition from psychic to medium when a mother came in asking for a reading to find out if her son had committed suicide. Wilson stated that when doing a reading for a murder or suicide you have to be very careful what comes out of your mouth. "You may be wrong," she said. During the course of her reading, Wilson could see this man might not have committed suicide. She contacted a friend on the police force to validate the messages she was receiving. The officer did a little investigation on her own and discovered that, in fact, the son had been murdered in a drug-related crime. Wilson explained that the transition from simply doing a psychic reading to being a medium takes a lot more energy and time. "It's not just sweet little old ladies wanting to talk to their husbands."

Diane Wilson conducting a gallery reading at the Crystal Barn.

Doing a reading for a murder takes a lot more out of you than a customer who just wants to know, "Where's my man?"

Wilson's most difficult reading was when a family came in who wanted to hear from their five-year-old son who had been hit by a semi while riding an ATV. It was her worst reading not because of the boy's passing, but the loved ones he left behind. During the reading, the little boy kept talking about blue paint on his shoes. The parents said that the day before he died they had repainted the kitchen and their son had gotten blue paint on his shoes. When he died, the shoes were the only recognizable thing left and they wrapped them up in a towel and brought them home.

Tedrow's spiritual journey started when her older brother died ten years ago. She and her brother were very close, and his death was the first loss she had ever experienced. As a result, a huge shift happened in her life. The old Michelle was 15% in touch with her higher self and 85% ego. After her brother died, it reversed. "It was like someone flipped a switch and a light came on," said Tedrow.

**MEDIUMS** continued on **16 »**


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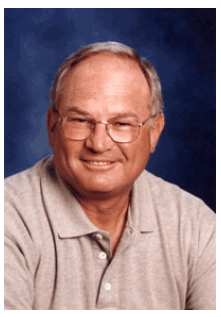
# Viewpoint

## Federal Government Announces State Food Production No Longer Important

**Joel Nelsen**



Last month, the federal government announced that the production of food and fiber in the nation's number one agricultural state and the highest producing agricultural counties are no longer important. Two agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Marine Fisheries Service have determined they can't create a solution that allows an affordable food supply to be the strength of this nation.

They tie themselves up in knots relative to "what if" scenarios while trying to convey a desire to create a solution when in fact their solution has been and continues to be zero. Over a million acre feet of water was added to storage since the Armageddon announcement earlier this year, and yet not one drop can be made available to senior water right holders thereby forcing the Eastside of the San Joaquin Valley to go dry?

As managers they are woefully inadequate to be a positive influence inasmuch they have repeatedly allowed water to be released or not captured in the past several months that could have lessened the extensive nature of this drought. They made the decisions to lose water; they made the decisions to keep water; and they made the decisions that negatively impact thousands of people all the while occupying an office hundreds or thousands of miles away from the impact center.

Ronald Reagan was right: "Government is the problem." Now, will the state and the Brown Administration allow the federal government to create a food, fiber and economic disaster in this state and thus follow the leadership model perfected by two federal agencies? Or will they and our elected officials not allow bureaucracies to do nothing and subsequently provide a solution path that undoes this unprecedented decision? Former President Dwight Eisenhower was also correct when he stated it is real easy to farm when you are thousands of miles away from the property, which for a bureaucrat is piece of paper and their plow is a pencil.

This has to be one of the more ridiculous statements and decision ever made by any administration.

*Joel Nelsen is the CEO/president of California Citrus Mutual, based in Exeter.*

## We Need a Level Playing Field

**Richard L. Feder**

Congress needs to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) so there is real and fair competition reflecting 21st century commerce. America was built on promoting economic growth and business in a fashion that ensures fair competition for all.

Today, online-only retailers are not required to charge and collect sales tax, while local businesses must. However, the sales tax (in all but five states) is still owed. The collection of these taxes is difficult to enforce unless online sellers have either a physical store or a warehouse within the state. When sales tax is not collected at the time of purchase, the burden falls on the consumer to report and pay. Compliance is virtually non-existent. Based on a recent Ohio State University study, states are estimated to lose $23 billion a year from uncollected sales taxes on online goods.

The current sales tax code is unquestionably confusing for consumers and companies. For example, Amazon is now legally required to collect sales tax in 21 states, including the four most populous: California, New York, Florida and Texas. The MFA is not an additive tax. It's about ensuring all companies, regardless of the type of business, pay the same tax.

The tax disparity puts local businesses at a significant economic disadvantage and stifles the overall economy. According to a July 2013 study conducted by Arthur B. Laffer and Donna Arduin, federal legislation that would allow states to close the online sales tax loopholes would result in a more efficient tax system, a larger tax base, and lower tax rates for all taxpayers. This will increase states' prosperity and employment, increasing GDP by more than $563 billion and adding more than 1.5 million jobs in the next 10 years. It is time for Congress to grant states the ability to correct the unfair application of sales tax laws.

How does MFA impact our community? Visalia Mall is a "key player" in the retail hub of the community with a balance of brand names, value and convenience as the only fashion department store (Macy's) within a 45 mile radius. The Mall contributes millions annually in property and sales taxes that pay for critical life-safety services, such as law enforcement, fire department, education and other services. Visalia Mall employs approximately 1,500 part and full-time employees.

Passage of the MFA allows Visalia Mall and other bricks-and-mortar retailers to compete fairly with online retailers. Bricks-and-mortar retailers are the economic engine that drives the local economy.

The MFA passed the Senate in early May 2013 and is currently under consideration in the House of Representatives. Passing the MFA is simply about enforcement of current tax law. Whether you shop at a store or online, taxation should be fair.

*Richard L. Feder is the General Manager of the Visalia Mall.*

## Tulare County for Families Staged 'Light Brigade' May 30

**Tulare County for Families**

On Friday, May 30, Tulare County for Families (TC4F) staged a 'light brigade' action, calling for a stop to the mass deportations that separate families. The event was a follow-up to the group's June 13th delivery of over 600 crosses to Representative Devin Nunes' (R-22) office. The crosses represented people who have died crossing the Mexican-American border.

Nunes has yet to respond to TC4F's call for him to act on comprehensive immigration reform, passed by the Senate but stalled in the House.

The brigade gathered at 8pm at the Visalia courthouse at 221 S. Mooney Blvd. and trekked south, crossing the 198 overpass to set up at the College of the Sequoias. The event was widely announced on social media and email flyers.

"Current immigration policies encourage the separation of families via deportation," said Diane Leigh Koletzke of TC4F. "Many children in our community have been stranded here while one or both parents are deported. These children are U.S. citizens. On behalf of these children, we are asking that deportations be stopped until immigration reform can address the issue more effectively and more humanely."

The brigade consisted of a series of LED-illuminated panels, each held by a different person. Each individual panel displayed one letter of the alphabet. Activists, known as "holders of the light," assembled in a line. Together, the light brigade literally spelled out a political statement – "STOP DEPORATIONS NOW."

*Tulare County For Families advocates for the preservation of family unity by empowering families through education and promoting an environment that fosters civic engagement and productive citizenship; valuing the contribution of the immigrant population; advocating for all families to be treated with dignity and respect; and promoting the general welfare for all members of our community.*

## VUSD Measure E: Busy Summer

**Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.**

Don't look now but Visalia Unified is still growing! The good news is that Measure E will help us keep up with growth and will provide many improvements to our current schools. If you see work crews or clouds of dust around some of our schools, you will know that your tax dollars are at work.

Work is expected to begin this summer on the new two-story classroom building at Redwood High School and the new middle school—thanks to Measure E!

The 17,300-square-foot, 16-classroom academic wing at Redwood High School, designed by Robert Thornton of Teter AE, Visalia, will be located at the northeast corner of the campus and is expected to open in August 2015. The general contractor is Seals/Biehle, Inc., of Visalia. The building is estimated to cost over $7 million. However, if the statewide education bond passes in November 2014, VUSD will be reimbursed nearly $4 million, which can be used to fund additional projects.

The new middle school will be built at the northwest corner of Riggin and Akers. The architect is SIM Architects of Fresno; the builder is Oral E. Micham, Inc., of Woodlake. The campus, slated to open in 2016, will cost an estimated $35 million; but if the state bond passes in November, VUSD would be reimbursed over $19 million.

Measure E provides funding for new construction and also supports numerous "modernization" projects.

A variety of these smaller projects will be under way this summer. Mineral King, Linwood, Elbow Creek, Goshen, Mountain View and Hurley Elementary schools, as well as La Joya Middle School and the Visalia Adult School, will receive new fencing to create one access point and provide enhanced pedestrian safety.

New playgrounds will be constructed at Elbow Creek, Golden Oak, Ivanhoe, Mountain View and Houston Elementary schools to improve safety and provide better access for disabled students.

**Stay informed:**

The Measure E Citizens' Bond Oversight Advisory Committee meets regularly and all meetings are open to the public. Minutes and the summary report provided to committee members are posted at www.vusdeprogress.org. For details or to be added to the meeting reminder list, contact Shellie Knight at sknight@vusd.org or 730-7529.

Questions may also be directed to Robert Groeber, assistant superintendent – administrative services, at rgroeber@vusd.org or 730-7529; or Craig Wheaton, superintendent, at cwheaton@vusd.org or 730-7522.

*Craig Wheaton, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Visalia Unified School District.*

# Columns & Letters

## Carefully Consider Your Solar Installation Options

**William Menke**

After sitting down with three residential solar installation companies and attending one Central Valley home & garden show, I now feel informed regarding solar panels. I'm still not sure, though, whether or not I want to go there. A great deal of information is out there—and none of it is completely accurate.

An outright purchase of a solar system sounds the best. I'd avoid any marked-up long-term payments and, overall, the system would be cheapest this way. One bad aspect is that I'd be stuck with my system. What if a sleeker, more efficient system became available in a year or two? Also, will I live in my home long enough to recoup my investment (or sell my home for enough to offset the cost)? On the positive side, homebuyers I have spoken to show more enthusiasm towards homes with owned rather than leased systems. Additionally, various tax incentives are available to homeowners who purchase solar systems.

Not having the spare thousands of dollars to splurge on solar panels, I was intrigued by the available lease options. Some companies offer deals for as little as $0 down to get started. You pay a monthly rate for use of the solar panels, and with many companies the rate is guaranteed at either a fixed amount or with preset annual increases for the length of the contract. The leasing customer does pay interest to the solar company at a rate that was likened to that of a credit card. While the cost is significantly higher than that of purchasing, leasing can still make sense if your home is outfitted with the right number of panels, your home has good exposure to the sun, and your lease is drawn up with favorable terms. Tax incentives for going solar may not apply to leasing customers, but I was not able to confirm the details of this with a tax professional.

Prepaid leases were another option presented to me. You can save on the interest versus a standard leasing option; however, you don't have the satisfaction of owning your equipment and you also don't realize the full savings of purchasing. Usually, customers are either prepared to purchase a system or they only have enough discretionary income to allow for leasing. I was not able to find any homeowners who had gone with a prepaid lease option. All of the solar company representatives I spoke with confirmed that this was the least popular financing method.

One of my current clients is selling a home with a leased solar system. As I've discovered, the quick numbers you have to explain to a potential buyer are the lease payments and the electricity bill. This particular home is new, so there are no old electricity bills to compare to the current ones. A buyer basically has to look at the lease payment (say $100) and whatever minimal electricity bill (say $50) remains as the true monthly cost of electricity in the home ($150). The math is easy, but dealing with buyer concern is hard—especially when a solar lease comes with annual rate increases. Now, some contracts do have fixed rates—but preset annual increases seem to be the norm. In many cases, the solar panels provide such a tangible benefit (as compared to no solar) that these factors are not an issue.

Given that I am looking to sell my current home in the next few years, I was not comfortable pulling the trigger on solar. Enough of the buyers I work with have concerns and apprehensions about solar to make me shy away. Leasing contracts or outdated purchase systems were true points of contention for buyers. Most buyers want to be involved in the leasing or purchase negotiations when it comes to solar—not just stuck with whatever the previous homeowner had signed on for. On the other hand, many buyers expect their new or recently built home to be equipped with solar. It's impossible to please everyone.

If nothing else, when deciding to go solar make sure to have multiple companies bid on your job. This process will go a long way in helping you decide whether or not solar technology is right for your home and finances. There is no doubt that, given the right sun exposure and the proper amount and placement of panels, good terms on a lease or purchase of solar could be a great investment.

*William Menke is a realtor with the Guarantee Real Estate Flex Office. He can be reached at William@Guarantee.com.*

We regret the omission of Felipe Martinez' name underneath his photo on the front page of the 15 May *Valley Voice*.

## Black Tie

**Alex Oldenbourg**

## Online Comments

Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

"Why would you rather believe in a vast government conspiracy to kill thousands of Americans, rather than what really happened? A group of radicals decided to attack us, and because of a design feature they could not have expected, managed to bring down the buildings?
Use Occam's Razor. (If you don't know what it is, Google it.)"
***— Jim Reeves, on Why the Truth About 9-11 is Important***

"To make people use the park all the time you would need a full-time security guard to keep the homeless and others out."
***— TR Bolton, on Oval Park Fundraising Effort***

"Everything has to have a start to reach a goal. This is a major start! Congratulations!"
***— Devona Birch, on Oval Park Fundraising Effort***

"The Lincoln Oval will always have a special place in my heart with fond memories of times gone by. Just like the neighborhood I grew up in on North Rinaldi. I don't feel safe there either. I hope things do work out well for the Lincoln Oval so it can return to the grandeur that it once had."
***— Larry Parker, on Oval Park Fundraising Effort***

"sorry they died but why should we morn them? there not americans! there coming over here illeagaly to take american jobs and live off wellfair and ssi how many transported drugs here in the proscess."
***— Brian Herrin, on Tulare County Group Protests Immigration Policy***

## *Letter: Reaching Out in Support of Isla Vista*

Dear *Valley Voice* Community,

It is with deepest sorrow that I am addressing you today. As a UC Santa Barbara Alumni, last Friday's tragedy touched me in a very deep and personal way. My heart and prayers go out to the victims of the shooting, their family and friends, as well as UC Santa Barbara, and the Isla Vista community.

I feel a very strong connection to Isla Vista; it is truly like a second home to me. It's where I went to college, met my life-long friends, and started my business, Greek U.

I wish to extend my support in any way possible to the community that has always supported me as a student, resident, and business owner for the last 15 years.

When I first heard about the shooting, it brought me back to the 2001 Isla Vista Massacre. I was a sophomore at UC Santa Barbara, when a troubled young man violently ran down my classmates with his car in Isla Vista. Those kinds of memories stick with you forever. It's times like this, in moments of tragedy, that we need to come together and lean on one another for support. A tragedy like this calls to the community to comfort each other because the days ahead will be difficult. The families, friends, teachers, and classmates of the victims are unfortunately dealing with something life changing. It's shocking and heartbreaking to lose loved ones, and I know many of you feel helpless. I encourage you to attend candlelight vigils and reach out to the community, and volunteer in any way you can.

I am thankful that I have the opportunity to give back to the families who are going through a terrible tragedy through my company, Greek U. Greek U created an "Isla Vista Strong" shirt, tank top, and sweatshirt in cooperation with the Isla Vista Strong Facebook Page to raise funds for the Victims of Isla Vista Fund. Our company will donate 100 percent of our profits to the families of the Isla Vista shooting victims. We designed the logo to be blue and gold, representing my alma mater's school colors. We encourage everyone to wear the clothing to celebrate the lives of the victims who were lost in the shooting. Please help us raise money for the victims' families. I hope that the community will come together stronger and more empowered than ever before.

I also want to take this opportunity to speak out against the violence on Greek organizations. As a company who serves fraternities and sororities, I know that Greeks have always represented love, respect, leadership, and philanthropy. No one can take that spirit away from you. Keep your head high and remember why you pledged: because the bonds you form are strong and unbreakable. Wear your "Isla Vista Strong" clothing proudly around campus for the victims, families, community, and your Greek organization.

Please show your support today. Go to: http://www.greeku.com/greek/isla-vista/ to purchase your "Isla Vista Strong" apparel.

*Daniel Passov*
*UCSB Alumni 2003*

# Mediums

Continued from p. 13

She has memories of the person she used to be but now feels more connected to her higher self than the material world. This connection to the spiritual world ended her existence of just drifting through life and pulled her into becoming a medium.

Tedrow's most unusual reading concerned a family dog. The dog was feeling under the weather, so the family decided to let it rest in the car while they took an excursion. On their return, realizing they had not left a window open, the found that their dog had died. The guilt over the dog's death weighed heavily on them, and the family asked Tedrow if she could do a reading. The session revolved around everything to do with the pet's life. The dog showed her his treats, his bed, and how he loved to chase squirrels. Tedrow felt the pet seemed very happy and was still present in the family home. The youngest daughter, with whom the dog slept, had a dream that the dog would reincarnate into a new puppy. Tedrow said the dog's spirit came through as strong as any human's that had passed to the other side.

There are good reasons and bad reasons to get a reading. Wilson said a good reason is when someone needs closure because they did not get to say goodbye. A bad reason is when someone wants to know who killed their loved one. "What if you are wrong and an enraged parent goes out and beats the crap out of an innocent person?"

Those who are religious may also not be the best candidates for a reading. Relon Graham, the owner of the Crystal Barn, believes that there exists no conflict between religion and spirituality involving mediums. She said that mediums get most of their messages from angels, anyway. Graham's grandfather was an ardent Catholic, and he often makes himself heard in the store during readings or other events. But according to many Christians, seeking the guidance of a medium is relying on something that is not Bible-based. There are scriptures in the Old Testament that specifically forbid communicating with the dead or seeking out someone who tries to communicate with the dead. Some believe, Christian or not, that using an Ouija board, tarot cards or a medium could open up a portal for the devil to enter.

Being in the California Bible-belt, the Crystal Barn had to overcome deep resistance from Christian groups, especially 20 years ago. In the beginning, some churchgoers would call it the "devil store" or leave Bibles on the counter. Visalia has expanded its horizons, and Teresa Caputo—of Long Island Medium fame—has done much to change attitudes. "I think there has been an awakening," said Darcy Bellows-Macorro, author of Finding Vern. "If you want to tap into your intuition you can tap into it. The energy of the planet has been speeding up and as one person awakens then two then four then 16, it's exponential."

Throughout this area and Fresno County there are talented mediums and not-so-talented mediums. Someone who is new to the craft will be hit-and-miss. Bellows-Macorro has proven to be an accomplished medium but still isn't comfortable doing it professionally. Newer mediums don't have as much control over the information they are getting. "The percentage of what you get right grows with the number of readings that you do," said Tedrow.

She did readings for six years before she started charging people because, before doing so, she wanted to be confident that she could help them. "I'm kind of a perfectionist," Tedrow said. "I want them to get their money's worth." She once gave her client's money back. They didn't like what she had to say even though everything was true or validated later. "Some people don't like the truth, or you are not saying what they came to hear." Tedrow also tries to encourage her repeat clients to learn how to do readings themselves and wait six months before calling her again.

Tedrow's regular job is driving a bus for the Lemoore School District. In the mornings she does three or four readings a week. She believes that you should support yourself by other means so being a medium doesn't become about the money. Her guides say a medium's mission is to help people and that is the only reason you should be doing it. If money gets in the way the information does not flow.

The most amazing medium Tedrow has ever come across was Robert Brown, from England. He would come to California once a year, and once she drove down from Los Angeles and had a one-hour session. "It the best $285 I ever spent in my life. He was so accurate," Tedrow said. "He said I see your brother walking and described what he looked like. Not only did his reading give me peace and validation, he also showed me what is possible in this realm of work."

*Pick up the* Valley Voice*'s next issue for an intimate look behind a private reading where Valeria asks Michelle Tedrow, "Is my husband still with me?" Just 19 days after being let out of prison, Valeria's husband died of a genetic liver disorder. A month after that, she lost the grandmother who raised her. Michelle tries to contact both of her loved ones from the other side.*

## More Information

Event information:

**Crystal Barn**
(559) 732-8537
thecrystalbarn.com

**Cosmic Corral**
(559) 772-8140
cosmiccorral.com

Mediums:

**Diane Wilson**
(406) 564-6593
diane@spiritualc.com

**Michelle Tedrow**
(559) 589-3806

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# The Kings Fair Offers Something for Everyone

**Staff Reports**

From concerts, to midway rides, livestock shows and a rodeo on Sunday, the 2014 Kings Fair offers something for everyone this season at the Kings Fairgrounds in Hanford June 12-15. The variety of affordable entertainment offered at the fair this year is coupled with special promotion days to encourage attendees to enjoy the fun.

Opening day will begin with the first-ever Throwback Thursday, which will allow guests to catch all the fair action for a $1 admission.

"Our goal is always to provide affordable entertainment for our community," said Kate O'Neil, CEO. "For only $1 admission, anyone and everyone can come out and take part in one of the best small town fairs in the state."

Following Throwback Thursday, the fair will offer free parking on FREEky Friday, another savings for families looking for local entertainment this summer.

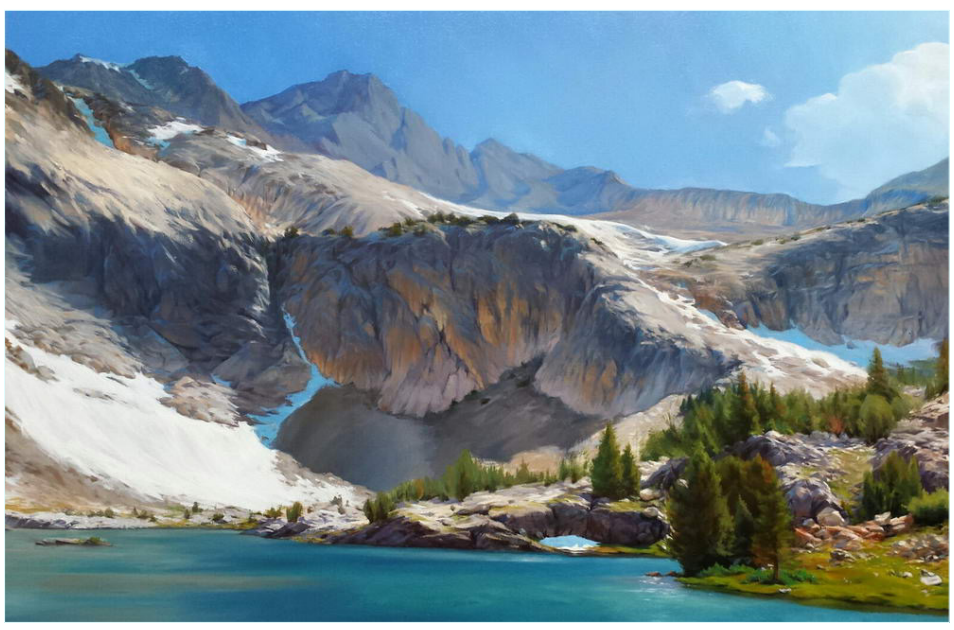
"This is something the fair has never really done," O'Neil added. "Our $1 admission day and free parking on Friday is a fantastic offer not found at many county fairs. I hope the community takes full advantage."

Over the weekend, the fair will welcome headline entertainment to rock the grounds. Multi-platinum band Smash Mouth will hit the Kings Theatre on Saturday night at 8pm. The opening act will feature up-and-coming Nashville country music singer Carolyn Mescher. As an added bonus, a second opening act by the winner of the 1st Annual Troubadour Music Festival (to be held from June 13 and 14) will kick off the night. Entrance to the concert is free with fair admission.

Smash Mouth has sold more than 10 million albums worldwide. Along with their number one hits – "Walkin'

**FAIR** continued on **23** »

The Kings Fair runs from June 12-15 in Hanford. Admission price will be $1 on its opening day.



John Yerden, "Greenstone Lake"

## Kings Art Center Presents Yosemite Renaissance XXIX

**John Robinson**

Yosemite Renaissance, an exhibit originating at the Museum in Yosemite Valley, is celebrating its 25th year at the Kings Art Center with an exhibit of 49 paintings, photographs, prints and sculptures. Drawn from over 700 entries, this year's exhibit includes a broad range of works from the representational to the abstract, all interpreting the majesty of Yosemite and the Sierra.

The goals of Yosemite Renaissance are to bring together the works of contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations, to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists, and to help re-establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus for the protection of the environment. Historically, the arts have played a major role in the establishment of our parks. It is the hope of Yosemite Renaissance that they can be just as important in future efforts to preserve, protect and expand our parks.

The artists included in Yosemite Renaissance XXIX are: Rebecca Alex, Jody Sears Barbuta, Annie Barrett Cashner, Robin Black, Ann C. Buell, Jerilynn Bush, Richard Castillo, Jeffrey Clark, Stephen Curl, Starr Davis, Dean Detrick Jr. , Dawna Ellis, Steve Emery, Sandy Follett, Denise Gilroy, Susan Lea Hackett, Juanita Hagberg, Tony Hertz, David Hoffman, Vaughn Hutchins, Susan J. Klein, Kathy Kleinsteiber, David Lee, Marek Matusz, G. Dan Mitchell, Jennifer Murray, William Neill, Glenn Nelson, Penny Otwell, Marc Pandone,

**ART CENTER** continued on **22** »

## Eagle Mountain Casino Presents 'America's Greatest Game Shows'

**Staff Reports**

"America's Greatest Game Shows," staring Bob Eubanks, is returning to Eagle Mountain Casino on Saturday, June 7, at 8pm.

Contestants will be chosen from the audience to participate in variety-based game shows with a chance to win $35,000 in cash and prizes. One lucky contestant will have a shot at the $100,000 grand prize.

"America's Greatest Game Shows" is coming to Eagle Mountain Casino on Saturday, June 7.

Eubanks, named by *TV Guide* as one of the top five game show hosts of all time, has hosted game shows such as "Card Sharks," "The Gong Show," "Name That Tune," "Love Connection" and "The Newlywed Game." The winner of five Emmys, he produced such television shows as "The Toni Tennille Show," "Buddy Hackett's You Bet Your Life," "All Star Secrets," "The Guinness Game" and "Infatuation." He produced The Beatles concert at the Hollywood Bowl, and had a 20-year concert promotion career for such performers as The Rolling Stones, Merle Haggard, Barry Manilow, Elton John and Bob Dylan.

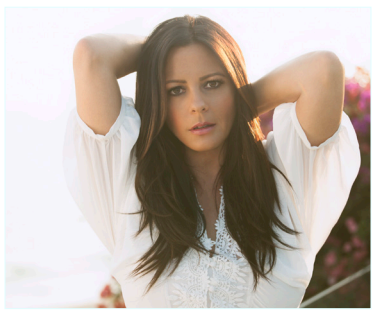
Tickets are $20. For more information, visit www.eaglemtncasino.com.

## Sara Evans to Headline Tachi Palace

**Staff Reports**

Sara Evans will perform in the Outdoor Pavilion at Tachi Palace in Lemoore on Thursday, June 12. Dustin Lynch will open the show.

Evans has sold nearly six million records, and her last four albums have been certified gold, platinum or multi-platinum.



Sara Evans

She's scored five No. 1 hits, among them "Suds in the Bucket," "A Real Fine Place to Start," "No Place That Far" and "A Little Bit Stronger," the title track of her chart-topping 2011 album, *Stronger*. The single was No. 1 for two weeks and was certified platinum.

She has amassed an impressive collection of awards, including female vocalist of the year from the Academy of Country Music and video of the year from the Country Music Association for her groundbreaking clip "Born to Fly."

Evans grew up singing in her family's band and then moved to Nashville looking for a record deal. Songwriter Harlan Howard heard her on a demo

**EVANS** continued on **19** »

Children involved in last year's Arts Visalia Summer Arts program show pride in their work.

# Arts Visalia Presents Summer Arts Classes

**Kevin Bowman**

Every summer, Arts Visalia presents a six-week series of art classes for children and youth aged five and up with our Summer Arts program. On Monday, June 9, classes will begin. Structured as mini-camps, each class meets for two to three hours daily for one week, with classes organized by age bracket. In all, six weeks of classes will be offered; three weeks in June and three weeks in July, followed by an exhibition of artworks by all of the kids who participated in the Summer Arts classes at Arts Visalia.

With an emphasis on process over product, our goal is to provide our students with a safe, fun environment where they learn the basic theories and techniques behind art. Creating art engages young people in hands-on rewarding activities where the final product is a result of their own efforts, their own experimentation. This experience helps to develop hand-eye coordination, critical thinking and a sense of delayed gratification. One need only see the pride on a child's face when they stand in front of their artworks on display in our gallery to know the benefits of making art in their lives.

All of the students' hard work and fun culminates in the annual Young at Art exhibition, featuring artworks by each student from each class. Each student is invited to display at least one artwork from each class they took, resulting in an art show which highlights the unique touch each student brought to the things they learned in their class.

The Summer Arts program at Arts Visalia grows every year with more and more young people participating. While the classes are tuition-based, financial assistance scholarships are available to help cover the tuition costs for children who otherwise may not be able to participate.

Our goal is to ensure that every interested child in our community has the opportunity to take part in our art classes.

These scholarships are available thanks to the generous support of grants from the United Way of Tulare County, Southern California Edison and the City of Visalia, in addition to private donations made to Arts Visalia's Art Scholarship Fund. If you know a child you believe would benefit from one of these scholarships, please contact Arts Visalia so that we may get them enrolled. Enrollment is open now and continues on a first come, first served basis for all classes.

Classes in drawing and painting, cartooning, printmaking, ceramics and more will be held this summer, taught by some very talented and exceptionally dedicated art instructors.

Teachers for the program include long-time Arts Visalia instructors Jamie Boley and Joan Huckabay, College of the Sequoias instructors Jessica Robles and Francisco Alonso, Jorge and Maribel Garza of Clay Studio/Artzone, and two new faces to the program in Sharon Turner and Laura Guzman.

We at Arts Visalia are very proud of this program and we believe strongly in the importance of providing engaging arts programs for the young people in our community, experiences that we hope will provide positive, lifelong memories for them and maybe even encourage a few along the way who might choose to pursue careers in the arts.

Arts Visalia is located at 214 E. Oak Ave. in downtown Visalia. For more information on our programs, call us at 739-0905 or visit us at artsvisalia.org.

*Kevin Bowman is the director of Arts Visalia and an instructor of art at College of the Sequoias.*

# Registration Now Open for Volleyball Clinics at The Lifestyle Center

**Staff Reports**

Registration is now open to enroll children ages 7-14 years in two youth volleyball clinics this summer, one for beginners and one for advanced players.

The clinics, which will take place in June and July, will be taught by Dorothy Collins, a professional volleyball coach, at The Lifestyle Center, 5105 W. Cypress Ave., Visalia.

The beginner clinic will take place from 9am to noon June 24-26, and is designed to teach players with little or no experience playing volleyball basic court skills and techniques.

The advanced clinic will take place from 9am to noon July 22-24 and is designed for players with school experience or league play. Participants in this clinic should have basic knowledge of fundamental skills and understand the rules of the game.

The cost for each clinic is $50 for members and $70 for guests. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, call The Lifestyle Center's business office at 624-3408. For more information, call the activities department at 624-3416.

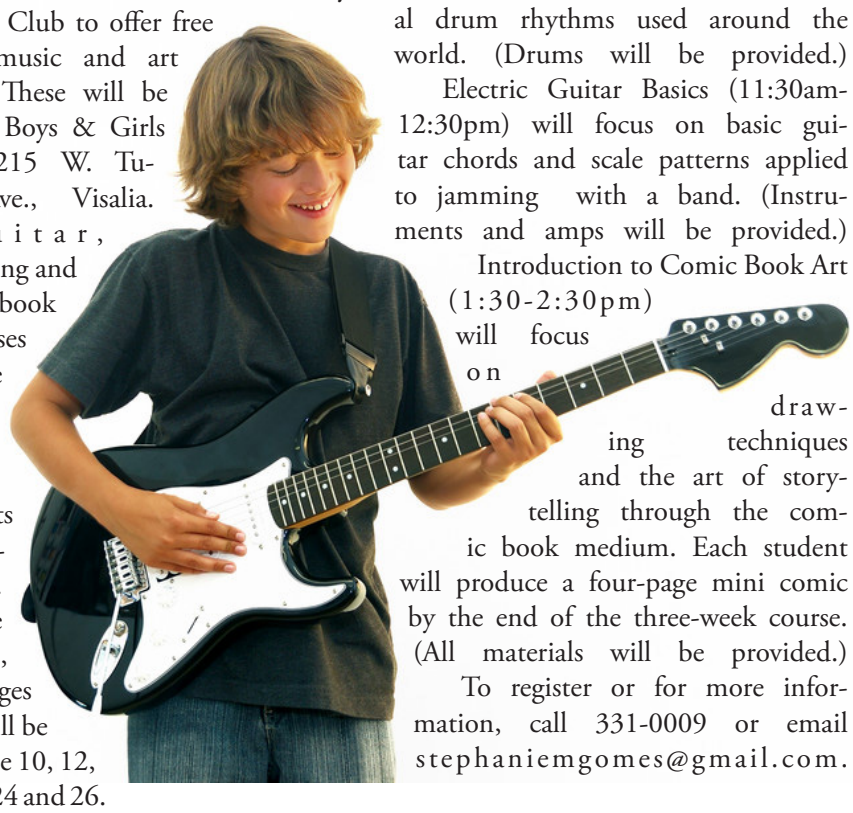
The Lifestyle Center, a division of Kaweah Delta Health Care District, is a medically based fitness and rehabilitation facility staffed with certified professionals. TLC is open from 4:30am to 11pm on weekdays, and 6am to 8pm on weekends. For more information, call 624-3400 or visit TheLifestyleCenter.org. You can also follow The Lifestyle Center on Twitter and Facebook.

# SNV Offers Music and Art Instruction

**Staff Reports**

Once again, the Sound N Vision Foundation has teamed up with Visalia Arts Consortium and Visalia Boys & Girls Club to offer free youth music and art classes. These will be held at Boys & Girls Club, 215 W. Tulare Ave., Visalia.

Guitar, drumming and comic book art classes will be taught by professional artists and musicians. The free classes, for ages 8-17, will be held June 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26.



Free music classes will again be offered in Visalia this summer. Photo by Kevin Figueroa

Drum Rhythms of the World (10-11am) will utilize conga drums to teach traditional drum rhythms used around the world. (Drums will be provided.)

Electric Guitar Basics (11:30am-12:30pm) will focus on basic guitar chords and scale patterns applied to jamming with a band. (Instruments and amps will be provided.)

Introduction to Comic Book Art (1:30-2:30pm) will focus on drawing techniques and the art of storytelling through the comic book medium. Each student will produce a four-page mini comic by the end of the three-week course. (All materials will be provided.)

To register or for more information, call 331-0009 or email stephaniemgomes@gmail.com.

# Clay Café to Host Summertime 'Kidz' Kamps'

**Staff Reports**

Clay Café is offering its annual summertime "Kidz Kamps" for children ages 5-13 years old. Camps will run every other week throughout the school break. The first camp begins Monday, June 16, and will have a "Mad Hatter " theme. All camps include a healthy lunch and snack.

Children will be introduced to ceramic painting, crafts, games and much more. Camp always ends with a party. Friday is dedicated to decorating, preparing food and celebration. This year's "Mad Hatter Tea Party" will have a visit from Alice herself. Other camp themes will be "World Traveler," "Robot Invasion" and "Let It Go/Frozen" theme.

Camps are four days (closed Wednesday) from 11am to 3pm. Cost is $125 and discounts are offered for additional children from the same family.

Each child will be motivated, stimulated and lovingly supervised, says shop owner Adina Escarsega, a former schoolteacher and exchange student coordinator who has worked with youth her entire life. "I try to offer quality fun with personal attention to the needs of each child," she adds.

For more information and registration, call 733-2022, or stop by the Clay Café, 225 E. Main St., Visalia for a personal tour of the studio.

NEXT DEADLINE:
12 JUNE 2014

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# Belinda Gail Returns to Mavericks June 6

**Staff Reports**

Mavericks Coffee House will welcome Belinda Gail back to Visalia, her longtime hometown, with a 7pm show on Friday, June 6. The seven-time Western Music Association (WMA) Female Performer of the Year will perform songs from her new, critically acclaimed album, *Granite Mountain*. Now residing with her husband, Bob Lorbeer, in Prescott, Arizona, Gail is looking forward to coming back to Visalia to perform and to see old friends and family.

Belinda Gail

Gail has also won the Academy of Western Artists (AWA) Female Vocalist of the Year twice; WMA's Traditional Duo/Group Award three times with the late Curley Musgrave; WMA's Traditional Album of the Year *Red Rock Moon* with Musgrave; and most recently, was named by *American Cowboy Magazine* as one of the top 50 Country and Western Entertainers of all time, along with the likes of Marty Robbins, Johnny Cash and Don Edwards – a pretty good showing for a cowgirl from Visalia.

"She reminds her legions of faithful fans that she is a cowgirl, and she can yodel, sing like a bird, and break your heart with her renditions of great western songs," said fellow singer Juni Fisher.

Jack Hannah of the Sons of the San Joaquin described Gail as "a unique talent, and a welcome addition to the world of authentic western music."

For tickets ($25) or more information, call Mavericks at 624-1400, or stop by at 238 E. Caldwell Avenue, Visalia.

# Evans

Continued from p. 17

and helped open a door for her at RCA Records, where she's been ever since.

"I've always felt like I'm a very lucky person," says Evans. "To be given a gift to sing, I don't know why the Lord has blessed me with this talent, but it has always made me feel lucky. I always appreciate those special moments like having a No. 1 record or doing a great show."

After enduring a divorce, Evans rebounded personally and professionally. She and her three children are now settled in Birmingham with former pro quarterback-turned-sportscaster Jay Barker, whom she married in 2008.

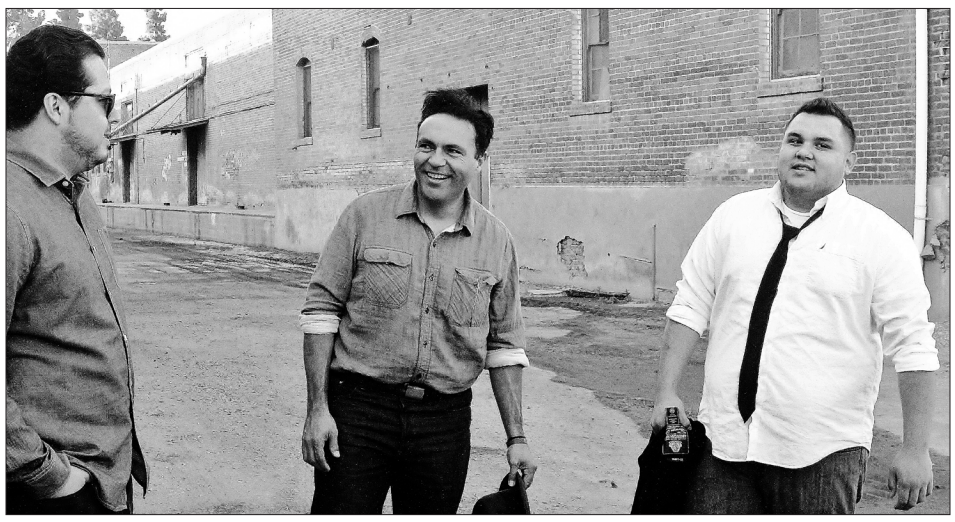
In addition to her music, Evans is an accomplished author, having penned three books with co-writer Rachel Hauck. She also writes a lifestyle blog, "A Real Fine Place," with her sister-in-law Kaelin "K.K" Evans, where they share their passion for fashion, beauty, travel and food. She was the first country artist to compete on ABC's popular "Dancing with the Stars" and she's been named one of *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People."

Evans is involved in several charitable endeavors and has been awarded the Crystal Cross by the American Red Cross. Last year, she and Barker launched Rock the South. The festival attracted 50,000 country music fans and raised money for the Children's Hospital of Birmingham, and Alabama Forever, a charity formed to help rebuild the areas in Alabama that were struck by devastating tornados.

Tickets ($25, $30, $40, $50, $75, $95) are available at www.tachipalace.com.

# Catharsus to Perform at Cafe 210

Catharsus — Alex Perez, Jordan Wright, Jon Young, Micah Butler and Jeremy Thomas – will kick off their summer tour with a June 13th performance at Café 210, 210 W. Center, Ave. in Visalia. The Visalia-based metal/death metal/progressive metal band will be preceded on stage by Aligieri and Blood Cabana. Tickets for the 6:30pm show are $5.



Lance Canales & the Flood

# Lance Canales & the Flood to Headline Cellar Door on June 14

Lance Canales & the Flood, which will headline The Cellar Door in Visalia on Saturday, June 14, are a roots-blues influenced Americana trio from the Central Valley, where Canales lived the life that so many songs have been written about since the birth of roots music – hard labor, one-room shacks and taunting ghosts whispering of a better life. The show is billed as a Woodie Guthrie Fest Tour Travel Fundraiser Show.

Canales' guttural vocals combine a hard-edged storytelling approach beneath a stripped down, foot-stomping, acoustic instrumentation. The Flood are made up of stand up bassist David Quinday (whose mournful bowing can be found on tracks such as "Hummingbird Blues" on the band's most recent album, *Elixir*) and multi-percussionist Zak Parrish.

Canales played solo for years until he began craving a fuller sound and energy to his music and enlisted "The Flood." They've been together for five years.

Canales is passionate about the band's release of the single "Plane Crash at Los Gatos: Deportee," written by Woody Guthrie in 1948, and labeled by Saint Louis Magazine as a "gut-wrenchingly beautiful rendition." The song has been covered by many musicians, but what makes this version so important is that it reveals the names of the Mexican nationals who were simply dubbed "deportees" in the original news article.

After first performing the song with the names at the 2012 Steinbeck Festival, Canales decided he wanted to do more for the "deportees" whom he discovered were buried in a mass, unmarked grave in Fresno, where the band now resides. In collaboration with Nora Guthrie and the Guthrie Foundation, the band has been performing to raise money for an historic memorial headstone for the "deportees."

Tickets for the 8pm 21+ show are $7. For tickets or for more information, visit snvfoundation.org.

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# MUSIC

## June

**June 5, 12, 19 & 26 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm**
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

**June 5 – Wild Ones & Dirty Limbs – 9:30pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Wild Ones and Dirty Limbs at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $7. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 6 – Electric Grease at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

**June 6 – Isla View – 8-10pm**
The pop-acoustic duo Isla View will perform at Farmer's Fury, 358 West D St., Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

**June 6 – Tomorrows Tulips, Le Wolves, Taco Wagon – 9:30pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Tomorrows Tulips, Le Wolves, Taco Wagon at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $7. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 7 – Belinda Gail – 7pm**
Belinda Gail will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. For information, visit mavericksccoffeehouse.com.

**June 7 – Zzah – 8-10pm**
The jazz group Zzah will perform at Farmer's Fury, 358 West D, Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

**June 7 – 5LIVE – 8pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present 5Live at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $5. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 12 – Sara Evans & Dustin Lynch – 7pm**
Sara Evans with special guest Dustin Lynch will perform at Tachi Palace. Tickets ($25-$95) are available at tachipalace.com.

**June 13 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm**
Stillwater will perform. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

**June 13 – Run4Cover – 9pm**
Run 4 Cover will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For tickets and information, visit cellardoor101.com.

**June 14 – Visalia Concerts in the Park**
On the second Saturday of every month beginning in June, Visalia Parks & Recreation present Concerts in the Park. The events are free. For information, call 713-4365.

**June 14 – Lance Canales & The Flood – 8pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present a Woodie Guthrie Fest Tour Travel Fundraiser Show at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $7. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 21 – Downtown Summer Jam – 5-10pm**
A to Z Entertainment Productions & Mobile DJ's of Visalia will present a free concert in downtown Visalia's Garden Street Plaza. Ghosts in Pocket, For the Record, The Green Machine and Lance Canales and The Flood will perform. For information, visit downtownvisalia.com.

**June 21 – Owl John & Withered Hand – 8-10pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Owl John, featuring Scott of Frightened Rabbits, and Withered Hand at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $10. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 27 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm**
Patti Torrey and River Ridge Irregulars will perform. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

**June 27 – Motel Drive CD Release Party – 9:30pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Motel Drive with special guests and DeeJay Savage Salvador at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $10. A free CD will be given with ticket purchase. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 28 – Judson Claiborn We are Traitors – 8-10pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Judson Claiborn We Are Traitors at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $5. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**June 29 – 5th Sunday Sing – 6pm**
The Lighthouse Boys are on tour celebrating 40 Years in Gospel Music and will perform at the Church of The Nazarene, 233 Homassel Ave, in Lindsay. A free-will offering will be taken.

## July

**July 5 – 2 Love or 2 Hate – 8-10pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation will present 2 Love or 2 Hate and Burning Bridges at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $6. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

**July 11 – Ron Thompson & the Resisters at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

# EVENTS

## June

**Through-Aug. 20 – Farmers Market at Quail Park – 10:30am-1:30pm**
Quail Park Retirement Village will host a Farmers Market every Wednesday through August 20 at 4520 W. Cypress Ave., Visalia. For information, call 624-3500.

**Through Oct. 31 – Lemoore Friday Night Market – 5-9pm**
Live music, beer garden, produce and other vendors are featured every Friday on D Street in Downtown Lemoore. Info, 924-9040.

**June 5 – Main Street Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm**
Mehrten Drive will be the featured entertainment at the Thursday Night Market Place in downtown Hanford. The theme for the evening will be Dairy Appreciation Night. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

**June 6 – Ribbon Cutting for Maurices – 4-5pm**
Visalia Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Maurice's New Store Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting at 2226 S. Mooney Blvd in the Kohl's Shopping Center.

**June 6, 13, 20, 27 – Lemoore Friday Night Market – 5-9pm**
Every Friday Night, the Downtown Lemoore Merchants Association hosts live music, a beer garden, produce vendors and more through October on D Street. For information, call 924-9040.

**June 6 – First Friday Downtown Visalia – 5:30pm**
The June edition of the growing multi-sensory art and entertainment crawl in the downtown Visalia will showcase musicians, performers, photographers, ports, sculptors, vendors and shop owners. The family-friendly event is free. July's First Friday even will be moved to July 11, since the first Friday is July 4. For information, visit facebook.com/firstfridayvisalia.

**June 7 – 5K Furry Run/Walk – 7:30am**
Valley Oak SPCA is hosting its inaugural 5K Furry Run/Walk at Plaza Park in Visalia. This event starts and finishes at Plaza Park and takes participants past the Visalia Airport and Valley Oaks Golf Course. Cost to register is $25 by June 6 and $30 on race day. Register online before June 3 at www.active.com.

**June 7, 14, 21, 28 – Visalia Farmers Market – 8-11:30pm**
Open year around, the market, corner of S. Mooney and W. Caldwell, offers fresh local produce, cooking demonstrations and entertainment. For information, visit visaliafarmersmarket.com.

**June 7 – Annual Porterville Mud Run – 8am-12pm**
The Family Crisis Center will hold its Mud Run at the Porterville Sports Complex. The event annually welcomes teams, individuals and youth to participate in a fun and challenging course through many muddy obstacles. The Mud Run is designed for all participants from the non-runner to the competitive athlete. Runs include a 5K, 1 Mile Family Fun, Youth Race Pollywog Jog (ages 12-17), and Mud Puddlers Jog (ages 7-11). There is also a complimentary "alligator infested romp" for young children ages 3-7. The event also includes a variety of vendors, musical entertainment, and a non-muddy kids' play area. For information, call 781-7462.

**June 7 – TCHS Park Tour – 8am-5pm**
Tulare County Historical Society will host a tour of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park. Early Tulare County pioneers had the vision to preserve the Giant Sequoias and landscapes. The tour will include a walk through the natural and cultural history of the park. Cost, $40, includes full-sized motor coach, tour and box lunch. For information, call 212-1162 or 626-4988.

**June 7 – Woodlake Berry Tasting – 10am-2pm**
Blueberries, blackberries and strawberries will be the highlights of Woodlake Berry Tasting at Bravo Lake Botanical Gardens, 200 E. Naranjo Blvd., Woodlake.

**June 9 – 13th Annual Golf For Life – 10:30am**
Darrel Waterman Memorial Tulare Kings Right to Life's 13th Annual Golf For Life will be held at the Visalia Country Club. Registration begins at 10:30 with tee-off at noon. Lunch, golf and dinner are included with $150 registration fee. For information, visit tkrl.org.

**June 12-15 – The Kings Fair**
This year's Kings Fair will feature a rodeo, performances, music, rides and much more. The Kings County Fairgrounds is located at 801 10th Ave. in Hanford. Smash Mouth, Carolyn Mescher, the 1st Annual Troubadour Music Festival and more are slated on the entertainment lineup. For information, visit kingsfair.com.

**June 12 – Ribbon Cutting at Quad Knopf – 3:30-4pm**
Visalia Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting at Quad Knopf, 901 E. Main St. RSVP at visaliachamber.org.

**June 12 – Exeter Chamber Mixer – 5-6:30pm**
Exeter Chamber will hold a mixer at The Courthouse Gallery and Museum. Robin Perna, distributer of Arbonne, will be a special guest. For information, visit exeterchamber.com.

**June 14 – Alzheimer's Awareness Walk/Run – 8am**
The Senior Living Network will be hosting a 10K, 5K, and 2-mile Walk/Run at Plaza Park in Visalia. Register online at www.signmeup.com or call Kim Jensen at 737-7443 for information. All proceeds from this event will remain in the Valley.

**June 14 – Inaugural FootGolf Tournament – 10am**
Visalia Parks and Recreation are hosting a golf tournament with a twist. Golf is played with a foot and soccer ball. The City in Visalia, in

# VENT CALENDAR

partnership with Valley Oaks Golf Course, will present this men's and co-ed (two male, two female) tournament playing a four person scramble. The cost per team, $160 for early registration, includes green fees, cart, lunch and awards. Proceeds benefit the City of Visalia Youth Scholarship Program. For information, call 713-4365.

**June 14 – Fathers Day Ride – 10am, 12pm & 2pm**
Bring Dad out to Circle T Ranch in Lemoore for a family horseback ride. Take a lesson in the arena and venture out as a group to the Kings River. Cost is $65 per rider. Helmets required for all riders under 18. Long pants and boots recommended for all riders. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

**June 14 – Kings Lions Brewfest 2014 – 5-9pm**
Kings Lions will host its Brewfest at 19th Avenue Park, Lemoore. Beer tasting, food and live performances are featured. Proceeds benefit local charities. For information, visit facebook.com/KingsBrewfest.

**June 19 – Pacific Employers Safety Programs Seminar – 10-11:30am**
Pacific Employers and the Tulare-Kings Builders Exchange will host a seminar at the Builders Exchange at 1223 S. Lovers Lane in Visalia. RSVP to Pacific Employers at 733-4256. The mid-morning seminars include refreshments and handouts. For information, visit pacificemployers.com.

**June 19 – Main Street Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm**
Square One will be the featured entertainment at the Thursday Night Market Place in downtown Hanford. The theme for the evening will be Beach Party, featuring Hawaiian shirts and a dune buggy car show. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

**June 19 – Visalia Chamber of Commerce 61st Annual Awards Banquet**
Each year, the Visalia Chamber honors businesses and individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support the community. The banquet will be held at the Visalia Convention Center. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

**June 19 – Throwback Thursday – 6pm**
Tachi Palace Fights present Throwback Thursday TPF 19. Tickets available at tachipalace.com.

**June 20 – Supervisor Harassment Prevention Workshop – 9-11am**
Visalia Chamber of Commerce will host this workshop in the Mangano Room of the chamber office, 220 N Santa Fe St. The interactive training meets the requirements of California AB 1825 which requires all employers with 50 or more employees to provide supervisors with training. Cost is $20 members and $40 non-members. To register, call 625-4800.

**June 20 - Juneteenth – 5-9pm**
Hanford Parks and Recreation will host the Third Annual Juneteenth Celebration which commemorates the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when slaves in Texas learned they were free more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The term Juneteenth is a combination of the words June and Nineteenth. Barbecue, activities and other events will be held at the Longfield Community Center.

**June 20-August 29 – Rockin' the Arbor – 6-10pm**
On Friday nights, Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will present Rockin' the Arbor, featuring live music, food vendors and family activities at 300 E Street. For information, call 924-6401.

**June 21-22 – Rocky Mountain Gun Show - 9am**
Rocky Mountain Gun Show will be held at the Visalia Convention Center. Admission is $10; children 12 & under, free. On Saturday the event ends at 5pm, and Sunday at 4pm. Info, rockymountaingunshow.com.

## THEATER

### June

**June 6 – Dive In Theatre – 7:30pm**
Porterville Parks and Recreation will show "Brave" at the city pool. Gates open at 7:30pm. Cost is $5 for a family of 6. For information, visit ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/parksandleisure.

**June 13 – Dive In Theatre – 7:30pm**
Porterville Parks and Recreation will show "The Croods" at the city pool. Gates open at 7:30pm. Cost is $5 for a family of 6. For information, visit ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/parksandleisure.

**June 14 – 2001 A Space Odyssey**
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Science Film Series will be held every Saturday through July 19 in the Purple Room, Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Ave. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

**June 14 – Dive-In Movies – 6pm**
Through July 26, Summer Night Lights will sponsor free movies and entrance to the Mt. Whitney High School pool, 900 S. Conyer St., Visalia. Swim time begins at 6pm and at dusk the featured movie will be shown on the lawn near the pool Snacks, blankets and lawn chairs are permitted. The Little Mermaid will be shown on June 14. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

**June 18 – Movies at the Mill – 7pm**
Central Valley Horror Club will present a showing of John Carpenter's "Christine," along with trivia and a memorabilia show & tell, at The Planning Mill, 514 E. Main St., Visalia. For more information, visit facebook.com/CentralValleyHorrorClub.

**June 20-22 – Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella – 7pm**
Christ Lutheran Church and the League of Christian Actors present "Cinderella" at the Visalia Fox. Tickets, $12-$18, are available at ticketfly.com. For information, visit foxvisalia.org.

## KIDS

**Through Summer – Summer Food Rocks – 12-1pm**
A nutritional lunch is available to kids 18 years and younger Monday through Friday at Anthony Community Center, Manuel F. Hernandez Community Center and Whitendale Community Center in Visalia. Meals are free, but kids are required to eat lunch on site. For information call 713-4365.

**June 5, 12, 19, 26 – Summer Reading Program – 11am-3pm**
Starting in June, the Visalia Branch of the Tulare County Library will hold a summer reading program for children and tweens. Kids are encouraged to sign up to receive prizes for reading. For information, call 713-2731.

**June 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Bilingual Story Time – 1:15pm**
Every Thursday, Tulare Public Library hosts a bilingual family story time in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

**June 6, 13, 20 & 27 – Preschool Story-time – 11:15am**
Every Friday, Preschool Story-time is held at Tulare Public Library in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

**June 6 – YA Book Club–6pm**
The YA Book Club meets at the Tulare Public Library, Charter Room. "Stargirl" by Jerry Spinelli will be discussed. To register for book clubs, call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

**June 7 – Tulare County Library Teen Advisory Group (TAG) – 1:30-2:30pm**
Teens are invited to help the library determine events that the library will offer. Members can earn volunteer hours, help plan programs and meet new people. Snacks are provided. TAG is open to anyone in grades 6-12 who is at least 13 years old. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month. For information, visit tularecountylibrary.org.

**June 9-12 – Porterville College SMART Lab**
Registration is open for Porterville College Foundation's S.M.A.R.T. Lab (Science, Mathematics and Resource Technology) program for grades 4-6. Multiple 3-day sessions are offered this summer: 9-12, July 7-10 or 28-31. The event includes breakfast, lunch, t-shirt, materials, workbook and a textbook of student's choice. Cost is $20. Space is limited. Register at the PC Business office at 100 E. College Ave. For information, call 791-2319.

**June 9-13 – Jr. Police Academy Camp – 8am-12pm**
Children ages 9-12 will be solving crimes and Anthony Community Center in Visalia. Hands-on learning of police tactics and strategies will be featured at this camp. Special guests include Visalia Police officers, K-9 units and CSI technicians. Fee, $65, includes t-shirt, photo, and a graduation ceremony with Junior Police Academy certificate and badge. For information, call 713-4365.

**June 9-13 – The Lifestyle Center Summer Camp – 12:30-4:30pm**
The Lifestyle Center will offer children, ages 5-12, a full week of games, outdoor water play, rock wall climbing, swimming and more. Camp cost is $80 for members and $95 for guests. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register call 624-3408. A second camp will be held July 14-18. For information, call the activities department at 624-3416.

**June 9-July 25 – Sizzlin' Summer Day Camp**
Hanford Parks and Recreation will operate a summer day camp at the Teen Center, 400 N. Douty St. For info, visit ci.hanford.ca.us.

**June 9-Aug 8 – Porterville Summer Day Camp – 7:30am-5:30pm**
The Porterville Heritage Center is offering summer day camp for children ages 5 through 12 years. Activities, crafts, sack lunches and snacks will be provided. Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis. Cost is $80 for full days/full-week, $50 for half days/full week; $20 full-day drop-in and $10 for half-day drop-in. A $5 discount is available for siblings of full-week participants. The center is located at 256 E. Orange Ave., Porterville. For information, call 791-7695.

**June 9-Aug 8 – Rockin' the Rec – 7am-6pm**
Lemoore Parks and Recreation will host weekly summer day camps for children ages 5 through 12. Camp is an all-day program with breakfast and lunch provided by the KCAO Food Program. Activities include arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor activities, swimming, movies, picnics and a weekly field trip. Cost is $120 a week, $420 for 4 weeks; and $820 for all 9 weeks. Registration required. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

**June 9 - Aug 8 – The Loop Bus – 12:30-6:30pm**
A free bus is provided to youth, ages 6-17 years, to Visalia Community Recreation Centers Monday through Friday. Youth must pre-register to use the service. Call 713-4365.

**June 9-Aug 8 – Kamp Kaboom – 7:30am-5:30pm**
The Whitendale Community Center is offering summer day camp for children ages 5-12. Activities, crafts, snack lunches and snacks will be provided. Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis. Cost is $100 for full week, $20 full-day drop-in and $10 for half-day. The center is located at 630 W. Beech, Visalia. For information, call 713-4365.

**June 10 – Princess Training Camp**
Hanford Parks and Recreation is offering a Princess Training Camp. For information, visit ci.hanford.ca.us.

**June 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 – Drum Rhythms of the World – 10-11am**
Sound N Vision Foundation, Visalia Arts Consortium and Visalia Boys & Girls Club have teamed up to offer free youth music and art classes at the Boys & Girls Club, 215 W Tulare Ave, Visalia. This class will utilize conga drums to teach traditional drum rhythms used around the world. (ages 8-17) Drums will be provided. Contact Stephanie Gomes to register: 331-0009 or stephaniemgomes@gmail.com.

**June 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 – Electric Guitar Basics – 11:30-12:30am**
Sound N Vision Foundation, Visalia Arts Consortium and Visalia Boys & Girls Club have teamed up to offer free youth music and art classes at the Boys & Girls Club, 215 W Tulare Ave, Visalia. This class will focus on basic guitar chords and scale patterns applied to jamming w/ a band. (ages 8-17) Instruments and amps will be provided. Email or call Stephanie Gomes to register: 331-0009 or stephaniemgomes@gmail.com.

**June 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 – Introduction to Comic Book Art – 1:30-2:30pm**
Sound N Vision Foundation, Visalia Arts Consortium and Visalia Boys & Girls Club offer free youth art classes at the Boys & Girls Club, 215 W Tulare Ave, Visalia. This class will focus on drawing techniques and the art of storytelling through the comic book medium. Each student will produce a 4-page mini comic by the end of the three work course. (ages 8-17) All materials will be provided. Email or call Stephanie Gomes to register: 331-0009 or stephaniemgomes@gmail.com.

**See more events online ourvalleyvoice.com**

# Art Center

Continued from p. 17

Bonnie Peterson, Cozette Phillips, Nancy Robbins, George Robertson, Gayle Simpson, Jeff Skelly, Mike Tauber, Vicki Thomas, Keith Walklet, Sarah Watts, Victoria Weller, Kathy Anne White, Melissa Woodburn and John Yerden.

Yosemite Renaissance XXIX will be on display in the Kings Art Center's Marcellus Gallery. In our Members Gallery, the center will present an exhibition from our permanent collection.

Given our limited exhibition space and the many requests we receive from artists to exhibit here at the center, it is a rare occasion when we have time in the schedule to present work from our permanent collection.

The work presented in this exhibit is by current or former members and in a way represents a major part of our history. Names such as Bill Banister, Nellie Cooke, Evalynne Griswold, Larry Heinze, Bob & Sallie Marcellus, Paula Montgomery, Helda Pires, Ralph Powell, Lennie Salmon and Barbara Spear, are among the many who were important contributors to our art community and whose work can be found in our collection.

Sandy Follett, "Autumn Leaf"

Although some of the work selected for this exhibit are "old favorites," we always relish the opportunity to receive and present new additions to the collection. Included in this exhibit are watercolors by Hienze and Spear. These recent additions are now part of our permanent collection, and, along with the other works in the collection, will be protected and displayed when time in the calendar permits.

Seeing this work again is like the pleasure of visiting old friends.

Exhibition dates are June 7 to July 26. Regular gallery hours are 11am-4pm Wednesday-Friday, and 12-3pm Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, call 584-1065.

*John Robinson is curator at Kings Art Center.*

# COMMUNITY

## June

**Through Aug. 2 – Visalia Public Swim – 12-3pm**
Monday through Saturday through August 2, the lifeguard-supervised pool at Redwood High School will be open to the public. Redwood High School is located at 1001 W Main St., Visalia. Those under age 6 must be accompanied by an individual 16 years or older. Cost is $1.50 ages 13+ years and $1.25 for ages 12 and under. Passes are also available for $20 at Anthony Community Center. More: visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

**Through Summer – Porterville City Pool – 12:15-4:15pm**
The City Pool, 97 N. Park Dr., will be open Monday through Thursday from June 1 through the summer. Admission: $1 children, $2 adult. Monthly pool passes, $30/adults and $20/children, are available at the pool cashier. For information, call 782-7543.

**June 5, 10, 12, 16, 19, 24, 25 – Elder Abuse Prevention Training**
Tulare County Public Guardian & Adult Protective Services are providing education on how to protect older and dependent adults from abuse through eight local trainings. Residents will learn about elder abuse and receive information about services and resources that are available. Events will be held at Woodlake Senior Center, Lindsay Senior Center, Exeter Senior Center, Earlimart Senior Center, Cutler-Orosi Senior Center, Goshen Senior Center and Porterville Senior Center. For information, call Tammie Weyker at 624-8007 or email tmweyker@tularehhsa.org.

**June 6 – Exeter Union High School Graduation – 8pm**
The commencement for the Class of 2014 will be held at Exeter Union High School.

**June 7 – Oasis – 9am-4pm**
Full Sail Ministries and Current for Women will present Oasis, a private personal retreat. The event will focus on worship, prayer stations, artistic expressions, Communion, Lectio Divine and Prayer Team availability. It will be held at Bennett's Ranch, 26801 Road 132, Visalia. No fee or registration is required, but a donation basket will be available. Those who stay the entire day are encouraged to bring a sack lunch and picnic blanket. Coffee and water will be provided. For information, visit fullsail.org or call 627-8202.

**June 7-Aug 3 – Hanford Public Pool**
Hanford Pool is open through August 3, Tuesday through Saturday from 12-4pm and Sunday from 5-8pm. The pool is located at 415 Ford St. For information, visit ci.hanford.ca.us.

**June 9-20 – Women With Visions Summer School 2014 – 9-11am**
Applications are being accepted for summer school for first through sixth grades. Women with Visions Unlimited, Inc. focuses on empowering youth to become future leaders. Math and reading booster classes will be held at First Southern Baptist Church, 1207 N. 11th Ave., Hanford. For information, call 583-6139.

**June 9-July 18 Lemoore High School Public Swim – 12-1:50pm**
Lemoore High School pool will be open for public swimming Monday through Friday. Cost is 2.50. A season swim pass is available for $25 or $75 Family. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

**June 9 – 55+ Rocks Speaker Series – 10:30-11:30am**
The American Red Cross will speak on Emergency Preparedness at the 55+ Rocks Speaker series at Visalia Senior Center, 310 N. Locust St., Visalia. The free program addresses topics such as health, finance, nutrition and more. Lunch reservations must be made 24-hours in advance by calling 713-4481.

**June 10 through the Summer – Lindsay Aquatic Center Public Swim – 12-5pm**
The Lindsay Aquatic Center will be open for the summer Monday through Friday. It will also be open on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30-10pm and Saturdays from noon-4pm. Children under 8 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Unlimited public swim passes are also on sale at the cashier. The Aquatic Center is located at 860 N. Sequoia Ave. For information, call 562-5196.

**June 11 – 55+ Rocks Speaker Series – 11:30am-12pm**
Energy Savings and Opportunities will be the featured topic at the 55+ Rocks Speaker series at Visalia Senior Center, 310 N. Locust St., Visalia. The free program addresses topics such as health, finance, nutrition and more. Lunch reservations must be made 24-hours in advance by calling 713-4481.

**June 12 – Tulare Kings Mensa – 5:30pm**
Tulare Kings Mensa, the South Valley's high IQ society, will meet at Panera Bread (near Target), 4103 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, for coffee, bagels, sandwiches and conversation. Prospective members encouraged to attend. For more info, call 280-9774.

**June 12 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm**
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. Doors open at 6:15 for bidders to examine auction items. The meeting begins at 7pm with the auction starting at 7:30pm. A raffle is held during each auction. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

**June 12 – Visalia Police Department Crime Lab – 6:30pm**
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series will launch on June 12 with a look at the Visalia Police Department Crime Lab. The program meets on Thursdays every week through July 24th at the Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Avenue, Visalia CA 93291. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

**June 13 – Graphic Novel Club – 4pm**
The new Graphic Novel Club will meet at the Tulare Public Library in the Olympic Room. For information, call 685-4500.

**June 13 and Aug 1 – iPhones & You – 6:45-8:15pm**
Visalia Parks and Recreation is offering two workshops on advanced features of the Apple iPhone at the Visalia Senior Center. Cost is $15. Register online at liveandplayvisalia.com.

**June 14 – Alzheimer's Awareness Walk/Run – 8am**
The Senior Living Network will host this event, which includes 10K, 5K and a 2-mile Walk/Run, at Plaza Park in Visalia. Register online at www.signmeup.com or call Kim Jensen at 737-7443 for additional information. All proceeds from this event will stay in the Valley.

**June 16 – Learn Digital Photography – 6-8pm.**
Professional photographer Brent Paul will conduct a class at the Lemoore Veteran's Building on digital photography. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

**June 17 – CASA of Tulare County Training**
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tulare County needs volunteers. The next training class begins June 17. Orientations are held every Monday at 5:30pm and every Thursday at noon (except for holidays). Orientations are held at 1156 N. Chinowth, Visalia. For information, call 625-4007.

**June 19 – Homeopathy Talk Group – 6-7pm**
Homeopathy First will host a monthly "Homeopathy Talk" group. The gathering focuses on green healing and more natural approaches to health. Homeopathy will not be the only topic or modality discussed. The talk is held on the third Thursday of the month. For more information, call 679-8718. Homeopathy First is located at 216 E. Pine St. in Exeter above Pine Street Pediatrics.

# ART

## June

**Through June 30 – A Box of Chocolates**
This Exeter Courthouse Gallery and Museum spring art exhibit brings together the work of George Tanimoto and Jerry Smith. The Courthouse Gallery is located at 125 South B Street.

**Through June 30 – Bill Dillberg Photography Exhibit – 5:30-8pm**
Photography exhibit by Bill Dillberg features Ireland and other scenic spots and will be held during the First Friday Downtown Visalia art walk and Brandon-Mitchell Gallery in the Spiritual Awareness Center, 117 S. Locust. For information, visit spirtualawarenesscenter.com.

**Through July 7 – A Show of Our Own**
The Creative Center Artists present this exhibition at the Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race Ave., Visalia. The opening reception is 6-8pm on Friday, June 6.

**June 5 – Earth and Rock Exhibit Artist Reception – 5-7pm**
Tulare Historical Museum will host an artist's reception for the Earth & Rock exhibit in the Heritage Art Gallery. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

**June 6-July 27 – Yosemite Renaissance XXVIII**
The Kings Art Center Marcellus Gallery will hold an Opening Reception June 6 from 5:30-7:30pm. For information visit kingsartcenter.org.

**June 7 – First Saturday in Three Rivers – 11am-5pm**
Open art studios and art vendors are featured on the first Saturday each month. For information, visit 1stsaturaytr.com.

**June 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 – Exeter Courthouse Gallery and Museum – 10am-4pm**
The Exeter Courthouse Gallery and Museum is open every weekend at 125 South B Street.

**June 11 & 25 – Crafty Corner –10:30am**
On the second and fourth Wednesdays every month the Visalia Branch Library hosts the Crafty Corner group. Bring your own projects and chat with the group. For information, visit tularecountylibrary.org.

**June 20-22 – Open Air Peddler's Market**
The market featuring antiques and collectibles is held at Tumbleweeds Antiques, 159 North B Street, Exeter, and at Exeter Treasures, 558 E. Palm. The market runs the third weekend of every month. To reserve space or for information, call 592-1940 or 936-1487.

The Leininger family arrives in America in the movie "Alone Yet Not Alone."

# Local Response Determines Visalia Opening of Faith-Based Film

**Staff Reports**

Enthuse Entertainment has announced the release of the family-friendly drama "Alone Yet Not Alone." Slated for a broad release in over 200 theaters nationwide on Friday, June 13, the production stars Kelly Greyson ("Return to the Hiding Place") with Jenn Gotzon ("God's Country," "Frost/Nixon") and actor/musical artist Clay Walker ("Clay Walker: Jesse James").

The drama is scheduled to open at Sequoia Mall 12 in Visalia, as well as in locations in Fresno and Clovis.

"'Alone Yet Not Alone' is opening in the Fresno/Clovis/Visalia area because moviegoers requested this film through a new film distribution platform called Seatzy, in which the public can participate in the process of supporting the films they love by getting ticket reservations in early (500 minimum) and assuring the film will play in the theater closest to them," explained publicist Lauren Johnston.

Last fall, the movie was shown at 11 select locations as part of a "sneak peek" week-long release, achieving the second highest grossing per screen average (combining theater ticket sales with Seatzy ticket sales) in the country. 'Alone Yet Not Alone' banked $11,434 per screen average in its limited release opening in Grand Rapids, Michigan; San Antonio, Houston and Dallas, Texas; Knoxville and Franklin, Tennessee; Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; and Colorado Springs, Colorado. The audience's enthusiastic reception helped rank the movie as one of the highest per-screen-average, independently released faith-based films to date. Tickets for Visalia, which when reserved/purchased will ensure that the film shows in this city, are currently available via www.seatzy.com/alone.

"I am thrilled that 'Alone Yet Not Alone' is the first nationwide release for Seatzy theatrical distribution and our advance sales ticketing platform," says Dan Merrell, founder and CEO of Seatzy. "We've developed a unique screen-by-screen marketing program that we are confident will allow us to open successfully in Fresno. It's an exciting new way to bring a compelling story like this to market."

"Alone Yet Not Alone" is based on the true story taken from the novel of the same name written by Tracy Leininger Craven that speaks of hope triumphing over despair, of faith overcoming fear, and of victory prevailing over adversity.

Depicting a family at a critical juncture in America's history, the film is designed to encourage and uplift families in difficult times, through sharing the inspiring story of Barbara and Regina Leininger and their journey of faith and survival during the French & Indian War in 1755. Captured by Delaware Indians after that tribe raided their home, the sisters--transported over 300 miles of wilderness to Ohio--are sustained only by their abiding trust in God, and their hope of escape against all odds to be reunited with their family.

"Alone Yet Not Alone" is a movie filled with action, drama and suspense shot on location at historical sites in Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania and North Carolina to allow audiences to take the journey with the characters. Filmmakers realized that in order to tell the story authentically, they would need to shoot where the events actually occurred or in similar terrain.

George Escobar and Ray Bengston co-directed James Richard's screenplay while James Richards, Bud S. Smith and Ken Wales served as executive producers. Barbara Divisek, George Escobar, Michael Snyder and Cynthia Garcia Walker produced the movie.

For more information about "Alone Yet Not Alone" and to watch the movie trailer, visit www.aloneyetnotalone.com.

# Celebrant Singers Embark on Summer Tours

A Celebrant Singers team leaves Visalia this month to travel across the United States and to France on a summer mission. This team of 26 young people, 10 from the Visalia area and 16 from other states and countries, will start this mission with two local concerts. As they travel across the U.S., the team will present concerts almost daily.

The Celebrant Singers

A second team will come together in July and will travel to Guatemala to share the love of God with people in that country. This team will also perform a local concert before their trip.

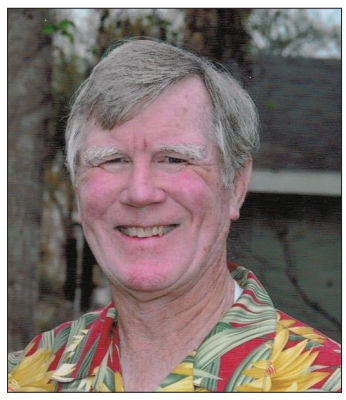
Local concerts are scheduled for Thursday, June 12, at First Baptist Church in Three Rivers, and Friday, June 13, at Jesus Name Cameron Creek Church in Farmersville. These missions conclude with the 37th Annual Homecoming Concert in Visalia on Saturday, August 9, at 7pm at L.J. Williams Theater.

For more information, call 740-4000 or visit www.celebrants.org.

# TKRL Announces New Name of June 9 Golf Tournament

**Staff Reports**

Tulare-Kings Right to Life (TKRL) has announced that the name of its annual golf tournament has been changed to the Darrel Waterman Memorial Golf for Life, in honor of longtime TKRL supporter, golf committee member, volunteer and friend, Darrel Waterman. Waterman, a founding member of the Golf for Life committee, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Exeter on April 6.



Darrel Waterman

The 13th Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 9, at the Visalia Country Club. Entry fee for this four-person shot-gun scramble is $150 per person, which entitles the participant to 18 holes of golf, a light lunch and a catered dinner at the VCC clubhouse.

Check-in begins at 10:30am with tee-off at noon. This year's first place team will be awarded golf for four at Poppy Hills Golf Course at Pebble Beach. A wide variety of raffle prizes and live auction items, including a limo ride and tickets to a 49ers or Raiders football game, will also be available.

TKRL works for restored moral, cultural and legal respect for innocent human life, reaching out to a society afflicted by legalized abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia. TKRL offers education in these life issues and promotes healing hope for those affected.

For information about sponsor packages and/or registration forms, call April Kesterson at 732-5000 or visit www.tkrl.org.

# Fair

Continued from p. 17

on the Sun" and "All Star" – they're also known for other recognizable songs like "Then the Morning Comes," "Can't Get Enough of You Baby" and a cover of the Monkees' classic "I'm a Believer," which was prominently featured on the "Shrek" soundtrack.

Smash Mouth

Cultural Day on Sunday will offer attendees unique sounds, sights and savory fair food. New this year is the Fiesta Del Charro by Flying U Rodeo, which is also free with fair admission.

Fiesta Del Charro is a regional, centuries-old, traditional Mexican equestrian event featuring competitors hailing from south of the border. The rodeo features a colorful opening ceremony, specialty acts, trick and fancy roping, horse and training acts, lively music, bull riding, dancers and more.

"Cultural Day at the fair is always a popular day to attend," said O'Neil. "We're looking forward to welcoming the rodeo for the first time."

Friday features the IMCA Sportmod, IMCA Stock and Mini Stock, free with fair admission. Gates open at 5pm, racing at 6:30pm.

For guests over 21, The Cadillac Cowboys will bring down the house country-style in the Wine Garden on Friday from 7-11pm.

New for 2014, the 1st Annual Troubadour Music Festival, presented by JLive Entertainment and featuring Leaving Austin, will hit the stage on Friday.

Saturday, June 14, the Sprint Cars return to the fair. Pombo Sargent classic KWS 410 Wing Sprint, IMCA Modifieds and IMCA Sportmod race at 6:30pm, gates open at 5pm. Admission is $15 per person.

Livestock exhibitors will be showing animals in the show ring, competing for top honors. The Swan Brothers Circus will entertain crowds in the carnival area. The Market Place will host daily the "Everything that Matters in the Kitchen Cooking Show" for tips, tricks and recipes.

Other highlights include popular hypnotist Kellie Karl, the Next Best Thing Talent Show, Go Fun Zipline, GASCAR Crazy Animal Races, fair food, crafts, carnival rides and much more.

For more information visit www.kingsfair.com.

# Critter Camp Offers Summer Fun for Youth

**Staff Reports**

Critter Camp offers activities, crafts, guest speakers and fun for youth ages 5-12. The camp is scheduled for Monday through Friday from 9am to noon at Valley Oak SPCA Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, 29016 Highway 99, Visalia.

Critter Camp for ages 8-12 will be held June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11 and July 14-18. Dates for ages 5-7 will be July 21-25 and July 28-August 1.

Participants will spend hands-on time with shelter cats and dogs; learn fun and new facts about wild and domestic animals; participate in animal-themed crafts, activities and games; and make new friends who care about the animals as much as they do.

To register, visit Valley Oak SPCA, 29016 Highway 99, Visalia, or online at www.vospca.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyOakSPCA.

Valley Oak SPCA hours are Monday and Wednesday 9:30am - 6pm; and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am - 5pm.

# Kings Lions to Brew Up Fun, Food and Music June 14

**Staff Reports**

The Kings Lions Club has announced that tickets are available (to those 21 and over) for beer tasting and food at 19th Avenue Park (formerly Viera Field) in Lemoore on Saturday, June 14, from 5-9pm. All proceeds from the Annual Kings Lions Brewfest will be used to benefit local charities and families.

The Marie Wilson Band will perform at Kings Lions Brewfest.

"Money raised on June 14th will allow Lions to meet pressing needs in our community including scholarships, free eye exams, glasses and eye surgeries for those in need, youth sports, school supplies for children and much, much more," said Dr. Jeffrey Garcia, club president of Kings Lions Club. "In addition, for this year, we have selected three community groups to receive donations during the Kings Lions Brewfest: the NAS Lemoore Aviators Memorial Foundation, the Sarah A. Mooney Museum and the Badge of Brothers."

The Kings Lions Club has 33 members and meets on the first, second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the Lemoore Civic Auditorium. Lions clubs are groups of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to meet those needs. For more information, call 924-4417 or 707-5957. Tickets are $35 and may also be purchased online at www.flavorus.com/kingslionsbrewfest2014.

"Lions members thank everyone who contributes to this important fundraiser," Garcia added. "You are truly helping Lions make a difference in our community. With over 60 event sponsors and the Marie Wilson Band once again providing the music, this could be the largest Brewfest the city of Lemoore has ever seen."

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

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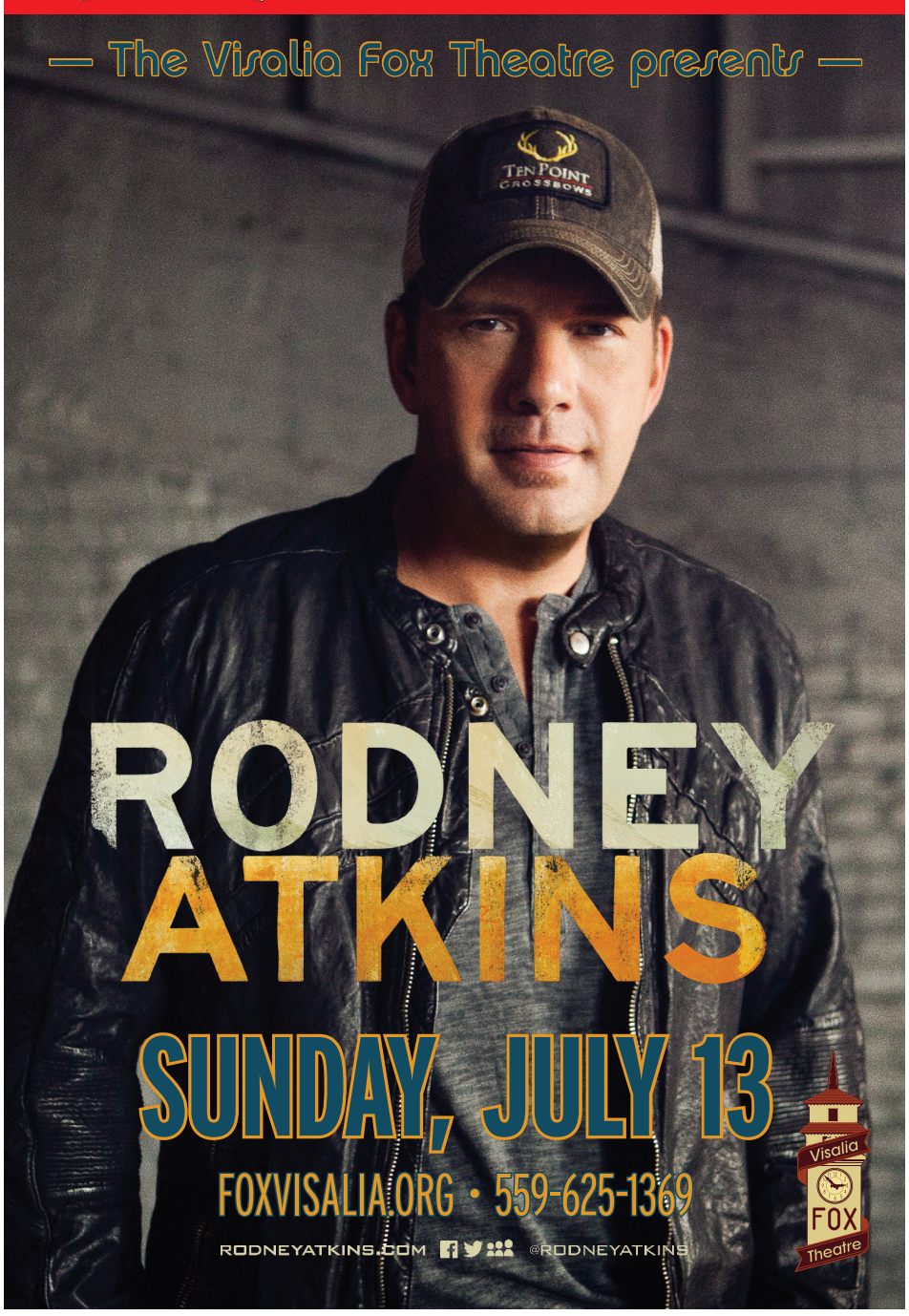
Budweiser CONCERT SERIES

— The Visalia Fox Theatre presents —



Jared Porter

# Visalia Native Performs at 2014 Country Music Festival in Nashville

**Staff Reports**

Jared Porter, a modern country music singer-songwriter, musician and former Visalia resident performed at the Country Music Festival's World GlobaLive! concert on June 2 in Nashville. CMA World GlobaLive! is a concert featuring some of the best up-and-coming international country artists from the Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and the U.K.

"I am super-pumped to play at the Country Music Festival!," said Porter before the event. "Even though I grew up in California, this will actually be my first official concert as Jared Porter in the states. I never would have imagined that my first U.S. concert as a country music artist would be in downtown Nashville. It is such a privilege to be a part of it."

Porter moved with his family to Australia at the age of 15 and shortly thereafter started pursuing his musical talent. He released his first country single, "Under the Sun," in February 2013. This January, he entered and won the 35th annual Toyota Star Maker Talent Competition, Australia's most prestigious country music competition. This is the same talent competition that launched Keith Urban's career when he won the award in 1990.

In addition to the title of 2014 Toyota Star Maker, Porter was awarded a recording contract, a Toyota car and fuel card for 12 months, a trip to Nashville, a guitar, a professional video clip, and exposure in Australia's country music magazine *Capital News*.

"I decided to enter the competition because unlike a lot of singing competitions, Toyota Star Maker doesn't try and change you or your sound as an artist," Porter explained. "When I was announced as the Star Maker winner, I was a little shocked at first, because there were so many great artists in the line-up. Then a rush of a sense of honor and excitement hit me, when I realized the amount of successful artists that have come through this competition, like Keith Urban."

Released earlier this month, Porter's new single, "Deep End," is the first taste of his soon-to-be released debut album – his major prize as the reigning Star Maker.

"From the moment I first heard it, the feel, the storyline and melody just had me written all over it," said Porter. "It is so catchy. I was hooked on it straight away. This song is all about that first stage of love and wanting to take that next big leap, but at the same time it is just a fun outdoors song. I grew up jumping off big rocks into lakes and rivers from a young age, so I guess this song hit me right at home. I knew I had to release it as my first single."

For more information, visit www.jaredportermusic.com, or find him on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

# High Meadow Field Trip Planned

**Elsah Cort**

The Alta Peak Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is planning a stroll with National Park Service botanist Erik Frenzel and plant ecologist Ann Huber along Long Meadow (in the Wolverton area) starting at noon on June 14. This is one of the most gentle and botanically lovely walks in the front country of Sequoia National Park.

The trail is flat to moderately sloping for less than two miles, looping around the open Long Meadow, with shaded portions that dip into the surrounding upper mixed conifer forest. Along the way, the group will catalogue the plants that are discovered and begin a plant list for Long Meadow. After the walk, those who want to continue the botanical adventure will visit Dorst Campground to monitor the rare sunflower hulsea brevifolia (short-leaved hulsea).

The meeting spot will be at noon on the deck of the Wolverton snack shop (now closed) that overlooks the meadow. The guided walk will begin after lunch, around 12:30pm. This is a field trip for all ages and is open to everyone. Long Meadow is at a 7,250-ft. elevation, two miles north of the General Sherman tree in Giant Forest.

Those who are interested in carpooling can meet at 10:45am at the Three Rivers Memorial Building on Highway 198 in Three Rivers. If you decide to drive to Wolverton on your own, follow the signs on the Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park. The Wolverton turnoff is two miles north of the General Sherman Tree. The drive to Wolverton from the Ash Mountain entrance station to Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park takes about 45-60 minutes ( longer if there is road construction).

For directions, it's best to follow the park map that is given at the entrance station of the park. Be prepared to pay the $20 entrance fee to the park if you do not have an annual pass. Bring sack lunch, water, hat and sunscreen as needed.

A special group campsite has been reserved for Saturday night. RSVP by June 7 to Ann Huber at ahuberdas@gmail.com or 561-4562. For more information about the Alta Peak Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, visit altapeakcnsp.org.